

£3,000m bonus for Chancellor

The Chancellor may have £3,000m available at the next Budget to hold down interest rates or cut taxes. Treasury calculations, aimed at curbing spending, have ignored this bonus which will stem from selling off North Sea oil assets and from £2,000m tax revenue, delayed by the Civil Service dispute, to be collected in the next financial year. Page 15

Mistake over Down's baby

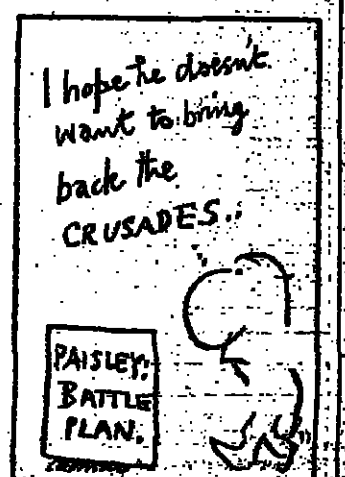
The couple who were awarded five-figure damages against Leeds Area Health Authority were the victims of a laboratory mistake. A scientific officer failed to determine that the baby had Down's syndrome. Page 2

PLO claims ambush success

The struggle between radical and moderate Arabs in the occupied West Bank intensified yesterday when the Palestine Liberation Organisation claimed responsibility for ambushing one of the local Arab leaders it has accused of collaborating with Israel. Page 6

AUEW win for Duffy's brother

The right-wing remained in overall control of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers after elections in which Mr Denis Duffy, brother of the union's president, defeated Mrs Derek Robinson, the dismissed BL convenor, for a divisional job. Page 2



Prince visits riot area

The Prince of Wales was given a warm welcome in Bristol when he visited the St Paul's area, the scene of rioting last summer, a factory, community centre and a school. The only disappointment was the absence of the Princess who has been confined to home. Page 2

Savoy blames loss on THF

The Savoy Hotel group has announced a sharply increased loss of £1.3m for the first six months of this year and has blamed part of the loss on publicity about the unwellcome bid from Trusthouse Forte. Page 15

Electric shock patients at risk

About one third of the machines used for electric shock treatment for psychiatric patients are obsolete and could lead to prolonged loss of memory, a report says. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said urgent steps would be taken to scrap the equipment. Page 3

England pin their faith on Martin

There are two surprises in England's team to meet Hungary in their final World Cup qualifying match on Wednesday tonight. Shilton replaces Clemence in goal and Martin takes Watson's place in defence. England must not lose if they are to reach the finals in Spain. Page 20

Leader page, 11
Letters: On disarmament, from Mrs Elizabeth Young, and Mr Carroll Dorgan; Civil Service Department, from Lord Crowther-Hunt; nationalization compensation, from Mr Anthony Luster
Leading articles: Universities; Bangladesh; Racial attacks
Features, pages 9, 10
Henry Fairlie on the night he was mugged in Washington; Tom Stoppard, still waiting for a Czech visa; a Times profile on Robert Bolt's second spring
Obituary, page 12
Mr William Holden, Right Rev Colin Winter
Oman: an eight page Special Report looks at the creation of "Fortress America" as the United States Bright Star gets underway.

Name News 2-4	Little cartoon 6
Overseas 6, 11	Parliament 8
Appointments 8	Property 23
Arts 13	Sale Room 22
Business 14-17	Science 19-22
Court 26	TV & Radio 25
Crossword 10	Sport 25
Diary 12	Theatre, etc 26
Events 26	25 Years Ago 12
Law Report 18	Wills 12

Mob attacks Prior at Ulster MP's funeral

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

An angry, jeering mob of Ulster Protestants yesterday attacked Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, kicking and punching at him and shouting "Murderer, you are the murderer". Later, all police leave was cancelled in readiness for the much feared violent backlash against IRA attacks and a threatened province-wide campaign of civil disobedience by "loyalists".

For three chaotic minutes, Mr Prior was in grave personal danger. Scores of people out of control of thousands of people, became violent as soon as Mr Prior stepped from his bullet-proof car to attend the funeral of the Rev Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for Belfast, South.

But all over Northern Ireland, thousands of Protestants attended orderly memorial services for Mr Bradford, and most returned to work afterwards. At least 4,000 people blocked the centre of Belfast and some of business "closed" in respect of the death of anger and passion was obvious as Mr Bradford and the other hundreds of murdered "loyalists" were mourned. But outside the Donaghadee church, the scene was tense.

Their angry mood spread rapidly, and his car was besieged. He was bundled back into the vehicle but quickly cried again to pass through the jeering mob, his head held low.

Police men protected his head with their hands and pushed him towards the side door of the small Donaghadee Presbyterian church in the eastern suburbs of Belfast. He was not hurt.

A few moments he was pinned against the wall of the church. "Fists flew" and the mob chanted: "Prior out, Prior out". None of the punches landed on him. A helicopter hovered high above, but the panic was over as quickly as it had begun. Thereafter, the mourners settled down to listen to the service over loudspeakers. Mr Prior was moved by some members of the congregation as he entered the church.

But there was more to come. As he left the coffin left the church, and many people went back to work. Several hundred remained behind, huddled against the biting cold, to await Mr Prior.

His car was backed up to the church door, though the crowd tried to stop it. After half an hour, Mr Prior emerged from the door behind the wall of policemen.

The shouting, abuse, and flying fists were even more intense and people began fighting each other in scenes of chaos.

Mr Prior's funeral was conducted by a close friend, the Rev Roy Magee who called from the pulpit for the restoration of capital punishment.

He said: "In the wake of the carnage we are not justified in asking whether and when this is going to end. The revulsion for the death of Robert Bradford, manifested by this massive demonstration, cries loudly in the ears of those responsible for the security policies of the province. The war has been one-sided for too long. Let the security forces take the initiative."

Mr Margaret Thatcher warned in the Commons yesterday that the threat by President Reagan to deploy nuclear weapons in Europe was "a serious challenge to the security of the world."

She said: "The American proposals will be presented to the Soviet Union when talks on theatre nuclear weapons begin in Geneva on November 30."

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The first phase of the American proposals aims for agreement on land-based missiles with a range of more than 625 miles. That would include American Pershing 2s and ground-launched cruise missiles and about 250 Soviet SS20s, 340 SS4s and 40 SS5s. Aircraft would be included in subsequent agreements.

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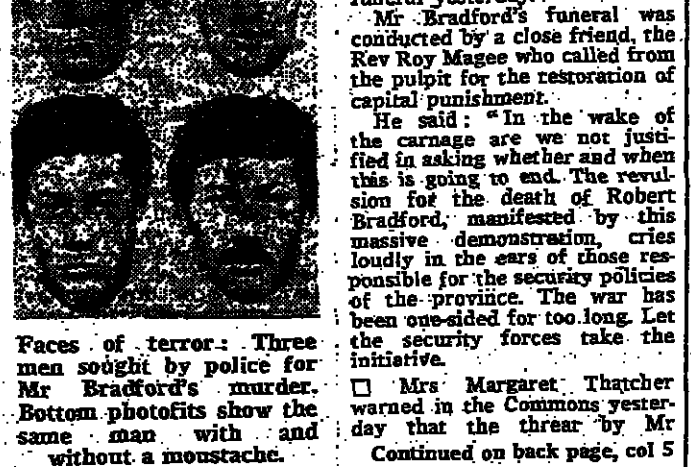
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Faces of terror: Three men sought by police for Mr Bradford's murder. Bottom photo shows the same man with and without a moustache.

Government accused of hidden tax on industry

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government was accused last night of inflicting a hidden tax of up to £58m on industry under cover of last month's announcement on statutory sick pay.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the Conservative Party conference last month that he had decided to reimburse employers in full for statutory sick payments during the first eight weeks of illness.

He announced: "Employers will be able to deduct every sickness payment they have to make from their National Insurance contributions."

A departmental press notice explained later that this decision had been taken "to avoid placing additional financial burdens on industry, particularly small businesses."

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, Labour spokesman on social security, said last night that this was not the whole truth. Under the current scheme, sick payments are not classed as remuneration and employers are therefore not liable to pay National Insurance contributions or surcharge on them.

Under the new scheme, to be introduced in April, 1983, employer's making the £37 a



Hands reach out to protect Mr Prior as he leaves yesterday's funeral for the murdered Ulster MP.

Lorries will go up to 40 tonnes

By Michael Bailey

A rise in Britain's maximum lorry weights from 32 to 40 tonnes has been approved by the Cabinet. It will be proposed in a White Paper from Mr David Howell, Secy of State for Transport in the next few weeks and debated in Parliament in the New Year.

The measure, forehadowed in *The Times* in September, will arouse fierce opposition among environmental bodies and also in the House, where Labour's transport spokesman Mr Albert Booth said last night he would fight it to the hilt.

The serious problems created by existing heavy lorries would be made intolerable by the raising of maximum weights," he said. "We are totally opposed to it."

Mr Michael Middleton, director of the Civic Trust, said: "We hope it would be linked with other measures, proposed by the Armistice Committee, such as by-passes round sensitive towns, more lorry action zones, and stricter controls on noise, fumes, and vibration."

Such measures will be commended in the White Paper, together with Armistice's conclusion that heavier lorries need not mean bigger lorries but could mean fewer lorries, and therefore a net environmental benefit.

In an Opposition debate in June, Mr Howell's predecessor as Transport, Mr Norman Fowler, bowed to environmental pressure by repudiating the 44 tonnes maximum recommended by the Armistice Committee last year in line with the EEC proposals.

Since then the EEC has reduced its recommended weight to a 40 tonne maximum. However, it still wants an 11 tonne axle weight.

Whitelaw's war on race violence

By Lucy Hodges

A Home Office study showing that racial attacks were widespread than previously believed drew a mixed response last night.

The study, based on police records in 13 areas, shows that Asians are more often the targets than black people, but that the attacks are not confined by extremist groups.

While ethnic minority and other groups welcomed the Government's recognition that attacks on black people were widespread crimes and were on the increase, there was disappointment that the Home Secretary had rejected the idea of special "anti-racist" police squads.

In a foreword to the report, Mr Whitelaw said his study had shown quite clearly that anxieties expressed about racial attacks were justified and he proposed four lines of action, which he would pursue in consultation with those concerned.

He said the police and others locally should collect figures on racial attacks because a lack of reliable information had led to the failure to appreciate the seriousness of the problem.

Second, there should be liaison between the police, local authorities and minority groups in all areas containing significant black populations. The study found this lacking in some places. Mr Whitelaw may want to commit himself further on this when Lord Scarman's report is published next week.

Third, police officers should be trained to be more sensitive to racial attacks.

And fourth, the Home Secretary said that ethnic minorities should help the police with information and, in turn, learn about the limitations of police powers and the need for proper evidence before arresting anyone.

Whitehall split on bank curbs

By Anthony Bevins and Kevin Page

A Whitehall dispute is looming over proposals by the Bank of England, presented by the Chancellor to Ministers, to legislate against foreign takeovers of British banks.

Tomorrow's meeting of the Cabinet's economic strategy (E) committee has a Treasury paper on its agenda which proposes a Bill to stop foreign companies taking over any of the clearing banks. Passions inside the Bank of England have been aroused since the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation made a £500m-plus bid for the Royal Bank of Scotland last April in defiance of the wishes of Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor.

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, is expected to be away in Brussels when E committee meets, but both the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade are anxious that legislation will invite retaliation and be inconsistent with Britain's demand for a liberalisation of financial services in the European Community.

The Midland, Barclays, and Natwest have all bought into American banking and Senator Jake Garn, heading the Senate inquiry into banking, has gone on record as saying any British move against foreign banks would prompt the Americans to block British banks acquiring more interests in the United States.

Current bids for the Royal Bank of Scotland by Hongkong and Shanghai and by the Standard Chartered Bank are now before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission which should report later this month. It is thought that Mr Biffen would wish to wait for the commission's response before taking a final decision.

Reagan move to calm Europe's missile fears

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 17

President Reagan will unveil proposals tomorrow for a substantial reduction in the number of American and Soviet medium-range missiles deployed in Europe.

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Toshiba win no-strike agreement

From Our Correspondent Birmingham

The electricians' union has agreed that it will never go on strike at a new factory in Plymouth owned by Toshiba of Japan.

In return the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Trades Union gets a special arbitration service and a one-class society within the factory where management and workers use the same canteen and car parking facilities.

Executives and shopfloor workers will also have exactly the same representation on an advisory board which will be the first to deal with management decisions and difficulties. There is also extra payment for extra skills.

Details of the deal were announced yesterday at an industrial relations conference organized by the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service in Sutton Coldfield. Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, BL's personnel manager, also addressed the meeting.

Mr Roy Sanderson, a national officer of the union, with responsibility for its engineering section, told the conference that some of his union colleagues were worried about giving away the traditional strike weapon. But he said, he had carried out research covering two years and had found that his union members got little benefit from strikes. They would return for little more than was on offer at first.

He said that the management and the unions should use the crisis to work out a system of industrial relations that could survive Britain from a further slide into economic disaster. If that was not done before the end of the recession there could be a return to old attitudes which would eventually lead to such a slide.

Revenue men will hound tax dodgers

By Frances Williams

A big drive on tax-dodging is to be launched by the Inland Revenue. It plans to double the number employed to sniff out illegal tax evasion, which is reckoned to cost the country about £4,000m a year in lost revenues.

The Treasury revealed yesterday that the Revenue is to divert some 400 staff from other duties over the next two years to concentrate on workers who dodge tax. The main targets are casual workers, those with second jobs and self-employed "moonlighters".

About three quarters of the extra staff will be assigned to PAYE audit offices. Their main task is to check employers pay rolls to make sure the right amount of tax is deducted from earnings.

They will be on the lookout for so-called casual workers with big regular payments—a practice which Inland Revenue surveys reveal is particularly prevalent in the construction, transport, hotel and catering industries. And they will keep a sharp eye open for workers registering with fictitious names.

The remaining 100 extra staff will go to local tax offices to hunt down "moonlighters" who avoid tax by doing jobs for cash, such as home decorating and plumbing. They will be coming through the Yellow Pages, studying the small advertisements in newspapers, inspecting the cards that are pushed through people's doors. Though tax officers do this spasmodically, there are no staff engaged on this sort of detective work full-time.

The Inland Revenue was at pains yesterday to emphasize that it is not out to hound small employers or legitimate one-man businesses. It is large employers, who may be fiddling on PAYE, and tax-dodging moonlighters that the Revenue is concerned to identify.

The new move by the Treasury is in reply to a report this summer from the Public Accounts Committee of the Commons. The PAC, Parliament's watchdog on Government spending, is chaired by Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury in the last Labour Government. It has demanded tougher action to suppress the "black economy". Otherwise it feared that tax evasion could come to be regarded as socially and morally acceptable.

The PAC also drew attention to the fact that, despite wishing to clamp down on the "black economy", the Government has made heavy cuts in Inland Revenue manpower. Staff numbers have fallen by 12 per cent, amounting to 14,000 jobs lost since the election to around 75,000. On present plans the Department will have lost nearly a quarter of its staff by 1984.

Estimates of the size of the "black economy" vary but the latest figures given last week to the Treasury Select Committee suggest that tax is being evaded on between 6 to 8 per cent of gross national product each year.

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Duffy's brother beats Robinson for AUEW post

By Donald Macintyre and Clifford Webb

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' right-wing group was confident last night of keeping its grip on the main levers of power after several union elections results were announced.

Mr Derek Robinson, the former Longbridge convenor, dismissed by BL two years ago, was defeated for a new divisional job in the Midlands by Mr Terence Duffy, brother of Mr Terence Duffy, the union's president. He immediately accused the AUEW leaders of rigging the ballot.

The left did markedly better in the contest for the general secretaryship with Mr Kenneth Brett, the union's Communist Assistant, General Secretary, coming top of the poll. But the right wing remained hopeful that Mr Gavin Laird, the Scottish executive member, would defeat him in the second ballot next spring.

Their optimism was based on an assumption, challenged yesterday by the left, that the overwhelming majority of the 21,905 votes gained by Mr Gerry Russell, the North-west executive member, who is a moderate but did not have the backing of either electoral machine, would go to Mr Laird.

The clearest right victory at executive level was won by Mr Whyman's outright success in retaining his seat with 13,581 votes. His main left-wing rival, Mr Roger Butler, polled 6,706 votes.

In a further first ballot victory, Mr George Arnold, divisional organizer in Tyneside, joined the union's executive for the first time after winning 12,339 votes. His nearest rival, Mr James Murray, the convenor at Vickers Armstrong in Newcastle, polled 4,995. Although Mr Arnold had some left as well as right support in the North-east, he is likely to fall in with the moderate camp on the executive.

Of the other two executive members, Mr John Weakley (Wales) and Mr South-west appeared in his second ballot contest with Mr Ronald Street, who polled 5,997 votes. Although Mr Weakley was comfortably top of the poll with 10,929 votes there were fears that left forces might coalesce to give him a close run election in the spring.

Mr Kenneth Carr, Midlands and Manchester executive member, goes to a second ballot after polling 16,051 votes over his left opponent, Mr Stanley Cole, who received 12,264.

Mr Robinson who was declared to have polled 4,325 votes against Mr Duffy's 9,064, said yesterday of the result: "I know it to be a fraud."

Mr Duffy, the union president, said that Mr Robinson's allegations saying that the ballot had been "authentic and would stand the scrutiny of any outside body."

Damages award explained Laboratory mistake over Down's baby

By Anabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A couple who were awarded five figure damages because they were not told before their daughter's birth that she had Down's syndrome received compensation because they were the victims of a laboratory mistake.

Leeds Area Health Authority said yesterday that the mother was given a test during pregnancy to see whether her baby was suffering any congenital abnormality. Due to a misinterpretation of the results she was told incorrectly that nothing was wrong.

The baby, Karen Rawnsley, who lived for 13 months, died because of a heart defect. She had been born at Leeds Maternity Hospital.

Mrs Mary Rawnsley, her mother, aged 43, said after the settlement in Leeds High Court on Monday, that if she had known that she was expecting a baby with Down's syndrome she would have had an abortion.

She and her husband, Mr Gerald Rawnsley, a lorry driver, claimed damages because of the costs they had incurred in having a ground-floor extension to their home because their baby's heart defect meant she would never be able to walk upstairs.

The health authority said: "In view of her age, Mrs Rawnsley was offered and accepted an amniocentesis test to determine whether her baby might have Down's syndrome. Subsequently she was told that there was no evidence of abnormality."

In fact, as a consequence of a mistake by a qualified laboratory scientist officer in preparing or interpreting the sample of amniotic fluid (the fluid surrounding the foetus), the report that the unborn baby was genetically normal was wrongly issued.

Following the birth of the baby with Down's syndrome there was an extensive investigation which identified the error and resulted in a tightening up of procedures to safeguard the accuracy of the test.

The scientific officer has resigned and the authority was satisfied that it was an isolated case of human error. "We now believe we have one of the most comprehensive checking systems in the country."

The amniocentesis test consists of drawing off some of the amniotic fluid surrounding the foetus in the womb, by means of a needle through the abdomen and analysing the results. Where it is found that the foetus is suffering some congenital defect, an abortion is usually offered.

Because the procedure is costly and carries a slight risk of miscarriage (between 1 and 2 per cent) it is not offered to all pregnant women. But it is often offered to women aged over 35 because of the increased risk of bearing a Down's syndrome baby after that age.

The risk is one in 1,300 if the mother is in her 20s, one in 750 for age 30 to 35; one in 600 for 35 to 40; one in 300 for age 40 to 45 and one in 60 at age 45.

The Department of Health and Social Security does not lay down what screening procedures health authorities should adopt and most authorities leave it to the doctor's discretion about whether or not to offer any screening tests. Such a test would not be sensible for a woman opposed to abortion, for example.

Mr Benn's friendly reception proved that Mr John Backhouse, Labour's candidate, should not be "written-off" as some commentators have attempted to do.

The theme of Mr Benn's speech was that the nation needed Mr Backhouse as an MP for Crosby and Mr Foot as the Prime Minister of a Labour government to adopt and pursue policies which would indicate some rapprochement between the two.

Mr Benn said that Crosby had two Conservative candidates, Mr John Butcher and Mrs Williams (SDP/Liberal Alliance).

Mr Benn said the SDP supported the Conservatives on all main issues: it wanted Britain to be governed from Brussels, would support the use of nuclear weapons and wanted to remain in the United States bases to remain in Britain and wanted to restrict the rights of working people to be represented by effective trade unions.

At Mr Benn's second meeting in the supposedly middle-class heartland of Forbury, several hundred people were shut out and police reinforcements were called after the local school headmaster had ruled that his fire and safety regulations would be breached if any more people tried to get in.

Mr Benn made an impromptu speech to people standing outside when he arrived, saying that the size of the audiences at both meetings proved the importance of the by-election.

All three main parties yesterday released details of their first canvass results, which they each claimed showed they would win on November 26.

The Conservatives, who are defending the seat, said they had won 15,490 of the 32,000 votes and that the results gave them majority over everyone else.

Mr Henry Purcell, the Conservative agent, would not disclose much more apart from saying that the Conservatives had 20 per cent of the "don't knows" vote.

Mr Williams' team were more forthcoming after canvassing a third of the electorate. Mr Williams said that the Conservatives had 30.4, 32.3 and 30.5 per cent respectively. With 27.8, 25.6 and 32 per cent positively against.

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Mr Backhouse, yesterday reintroduced the issue of Merseyside government, supported by Mr Robert Farr, Labour MP for Liverpool, Scotland Exchange.

Mr Farr shared Sir Trevor Jones' opinion that the Government was holding back an announcement on the site for the Merseyside Bay gasfield servicing centre, which could create two or three thousand jobs, until after the by-election.

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Mr Backhouse said that Crosby had two Conservative candidates, Mr John Butcher and Mrs Williams (SDP/Liberal Alliance).

Mr Benn said the SDP supported the Conservatives on all main issues: it wanted Britain to be governed from Brussels, would support the use of nuclear weapons and wanted to remain in the United States bases to remain in Britain and wanted to restrict the rights of working people to be represented by effective trade unions.

At Mr Benn's second meeting in the supposedly middle-class heartland of Forbury, several hundred people were shut out and police reinforcements were called after the local school headmaster had ruled that his fire and safety regulations would be breached if any more people tried to get in.

Mr Benn made an impromptu speech to people standing outside when he arrived, saying that the size of the audiences at both meetings proved the importance of the by-election.

All three main parties yesterday released details of their first canvass results, which they each claimed showed they would win on November 26.

The Conservatives, who are defending the seat, said they had won 15,490 of the 32,000 votes and that the results gave them majority over everyone else.

Mr Henry Purcell, the Conservative agent, would not disclose much more apart from saying that the Conservatives had 20 per cent of the "don't knows" vote.

Mr Williams' team were more forthcoming after canvassing a third of the electorate. Mr Williams said that the Conservatives had 30.4, 32.3 and 30.5 per cent respectively. With 27.8, 25.6 and 32 per cent positively against.

The "don't knows" really the most important group in the alliance campaign were put at 31.8 per cent in Crosby, 32.8 in Forbury and 28 in Forbury.

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Benn woos the masses at Crosby rallies

From John Chatter, Liverpool

More than 1,000 people turned up last night for the Labour Party's main public meeting at Crosby addressed by Mr Wedgwood Benn. It was estimated that about 800 got into the primary school where he held his first meeting of the night and that a further 400 heard him speak in over-spill rooms or through open windows.

The attendance, which exceeded Mrs Shirley Williams' formidable audience last week, was a further proof of the intensity of public interest in the by-election.

Mr Benn's friendly reception proved that Mr John Backhouse, Labour's candidate, should not be "written-off" as some commentators have attempted to do.

The theme of Mr Benn's speech was that the nation needed Mr Backhouse as an MP for Crosby and Mr Foot as the Prime Minister of a Labour government to adopt and pursue policies which would indicate some rapprochement between the two.

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Science report Dating gold of a Barbarian tribe

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first results of a new carbon dating method perfected at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, have been produced for gold and silver objects made between 650 and 700 AD.

The items belong to 122 ornaments which are believed to have decorated belt fittings of the Barbarian Avar tribe when it dominated Eastern Europe.

These remains of Barbarian gold and silver will be offered for sale by Sotheby's in London on December 14. But since the existence of the present treasure, known to experts in London only six years ago, when it was in private hands in Germany, the matter of authenticity became important. Extensive inquiries by archaeologists and Sotheby's have thrown little light on the history of the items before 1938.

The style and decoration of the Avar treasure has close similarities with one of the most famous Barbarian collections, found at Vrap in Albania 80 years ago, and now in the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

The idea of verifying, by which the still intact evidence, became possible with a process for analyzing samples up to one thousand times smaller than with established ways. Examination has been made from 300 milligrammes of fibrous material, identified as flax, scraped from the crevices of ornamental buckles.

Relatively large samples have been needed for examination. But two scientists at Harwell, Dr Robert Oetel and Dr G.M. Walker, specialists in measuring very small amounts of radiation, have developed a new method.

The key to the process is a thin glass tube containing a very sensitive detector for counting the beta-particles emitted by the carbon. In addition, a computer processing system recording the counts and subtracting the natural background. This is subtracted from the measurements.

THATCHER'S SUPPORTERS BEAT WETS

By Our Political Editor

A challenge from the Conservative Party's left wing to the Prime Minister's authority was foisted last night when Mr Maurice Macmillan, a Treasury minister in the Government led by Mr Edward Heath, was defeated in a contest for the chairmanship of the backbench finance committee.

The previous chairman, Sir William Clark, an uncrackling supporter of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and of the Government's economic policies, was re-elected.

Mr Stephen Durrill, one of the most outspoken critics of government policies among Conservatives elected in 1979, was replaced as joint secretary of the committee by Mr John Brown, another Thatcher supporter.

A consolation for the Government's critics was the election of Mr Christopher Parton as joint vice-chairman. One of the most active of MPs on the party's liberal wing, Mr Parton took the place left vacant by Mr William Waldegrave when he joined the Government in September.

Critics of government policies also failed in elections for the industry committee. Mr Michael Cryll was re-elected chairman, defeating a challenge from Mr Hal Miller and Mr Keith Wickenden defeated two rivals to replace the vice-chairmanship.

Mr Macmillan has been constructively critical of the Treasury. Last week he called on the Government for a degree of expansion, with more public investment in projects that would create jobs in the private sector.

He is no ideologue, but his candidature inevitably made him into a symbol of opposition to Treasury policy and there was some unofficial "whipping" on behalf of Downing Street to ensure his defeat.

Challenge on auction evidence

By Frances Gibb

Mr Andrew Faulds, Opposition spokesman for the arts, has called on Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to say whether he intends to bring in legislation to compel London art dealers to hand over their evidence on the controversial buyer's premium charged by auctioneers.

The British Antique Dealers' Association and the Society of London Art Dealers have both declined to hand over to the Office of Fair Trading the considerable body of evidence they amassed to fight Christie's and Sotheby's over the premium in the High Court.

Their long-running feud with the auctioneers was eventually settled out of court on September 29, after Sotheby's and the rate of the premium (it is now 10 per cent), and pending that review, the dealers have said they will not pursue it.

But their "honourable" agreement is now threatened by a request from the Office of Fair Trading for the evidence in the shape of affidavits, signed proofs, diary entries and attendance notes which Mr Biffen wishes to review whether the introduction of the premium breached fair trading restrictions.

Mr Faulds said yesterday: "It is disgraceful if the dealers do not hand over their evidence. It is a reflection of the director general's lack of power to find out information essential to judging matters of fair trading."

Two days ago the trade associations replied to a request from the Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading, through their solicitors, Waterhouse and Co.

They said: "It is appreciated that, as a public agency, you possess substantial powers to compel disclosure of information. However, for the reasons which we propose to give you would respectfully ask you to stay your hand, at all events until after the expiration of the three month period."

The dealers have not, the letter says, "resiled from the allegation of collusion" between the auctioneers. But it notes that to fight the action to a conclusion would have put the associations at risk of over £500,000 legal costs. They decided to rely on the good faith of the auctioneers' undertakings.

IN BRIEF

BL strike talks go on today

Talks intended to settle the strike over tea breaks at the BL Longbridge factory in Birmingham were adjourned last night after three hours. They will resume this morning.

BL would not give details of the meeting but a spokesman said: "While they are still talking there must be hope."

Blast death verdict

A verdict of accidental death was returned yesterday on Mr Michael McQuade, a lorry driver, who died in an explosion on September 6 which caused a fire at the Chemstar solvent recovery plant, Stalybridge, Greater Manchester. The probable cause was said to be leakage of fumes. Proceedings have been instituted against Chemstar.

Vauxhall pay vote

Workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port plant in Cheshire followed their colleagues at the motor company's Luton and Dunstable factories in voting overwhelmingly yesterday to accept a 5 per cent pay rise.

Hunt for schoolgirl

The police started a house-to-house search last night for Saffron Costello, aged 13, of Weirs Lane, Oxford, who was last seen outside her school in Marston, Oxford, on Monday morning.

Plea on Welsh homes

Mr Dafydd Wigley, MP for Gwynedd, and president of the Cymru, will meet two government ministers today to urge planning permission be made compulsory before houses become holiday homes and aid be given to councils to help curb arson attacks in Wales.

James theft charge

Charles Pierce, aged 40, of Westbourne Gardens, west London, a security guard with Christies, the auctioneers, will appear before Bow Street magistrates today on charges connected with the alleged disappearance of £100,000 of gold coins.

GMC chief resigns

Sir Robert Wright has resigned the presidency of the General Medical Council because of ill health, the council announced yesterday.



The Prince of Wales admiring the headgear of Mr Herbert Lewis, a cobbler at the Remploy factory, Bristol, yesterday.

Multiracial greeting for the Prince in Bristol

From Tim Jones, Bristol

The national flag of Bangladesh, Pakistan and the other Indian subcontinent with the Union Jack to greet the Prince of Wales as he visited the multiracial St Paul's district of Bristol yesterday.

Last year the area gained notoriety for racial and social conflict but there were no signs of ill will as the people united to give the Prince a warm and happy welcome.

The only disappointment was the absence of the Princess of Wales, who had decided on medical advice to stay at home at Highgrove, Gloucestershire.

On his first call of the day to the Remploy factory, the Prince told the workers: "She is very sorry she cannot come today. I am sure you all appreciate the reasons. I am told after three months things are inclined to get better."

To laughter, he added: "I am quite prepared to accept full responsibility. The Prince told Mrs Clady James, a mother of six: "It is unfortunate that these things happen; you can understand more than a man can."

He also said he had a nasty feeling, that before long he would be in need of a surgical corset, one of the products manufactured by the disabled people who work at the factory.

My wife keeps saying I am too thin. She keeps trying to fatten me up."

The Prince spent an hour at the factory and was presented with a leather attaché case and a wristwatch from Highgrove. In St Paul's the Prince had a one-sided conversation with Richard Cottrell, a punk rocker, whose bald head decorated with tufts of grey hair, contrasted with the hair's traditional grooming.

Feeling Mr Cottrell's leather jacket, the Prince said: "Does it have studs on the inside as well?"

At St Barnabas primary school, where 140 children had spent days preparing a special welcome for the "fair princess", the Prince eased their disappointment by over-staying his schedule to talk to them. Outside lines of clean-shaven Cub Scouts and brownies amused themselves by posturing before the deep shine of the royal limousine.

The Rev Keith Kimber, who had spoken with understanding during the aftermath of the St Paul's riots, said: "This is more like normal. It is a happy community and although it suffers a lot of stress, the people know how to celebrate. This is the St Paul's I know and believe in and love."

At the Royal Road Community Centre, Nanette Jackson, aged three, was rewarded for persistence when the Prince succumbed to her pleadings and signed her autograph book, an unusual thing for a member of the Royal Family to do.

Inside the centre a pop group and karate team entertained the Prince.

Last night the Prince, who is patron of the International Year of Disabled People, attended a concert by Yehudi Menuhin at Clifton Cathedral, the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The Prince's use of her own family motto *Dieu et mon droit* is another innovation. "Has any female royal consort ever used a motto before, other than that of her spouse?"

The archaic splendour of the language conceals a few surprises. For example: "The grant of the sinister supporter appears to be an innovation as it is a new supporter, based on Earl Spencer's dexter supporters."

The Gazette says it is refreshing that royal heraldry is not circumscribed by precedence

Seamen threaten worldwide shipping strike

By Michael Barry, Transport Correspondent

Seamen striking against closure of the Liverpool-Belfast ferry decided yesterday to block all P&O ships and later those of other lines.

The recommendation was passed at a mass meeting in Liverpool where crew members have been occupying the two doomed ferries, Ulster Queen and Ulster Prince, after closure of the route last week. The Port has constantly refused to provide a subsidy to keep it open.

The decision goes for ratification by the full NUS executive on Friday, but Mr Roger Wilkins, assistant national secretary, said at yesterday's meeting: "We have already given the men full backing."

Mr Roy Physics, NUS convenor on the Ulster Queen, said: "By Friday all P & O ships worldwide not at sea will be stuck in port. We expect full support from our members — we are fighting for their jobs. When all P & O ships are at a standstill we will spread the dispute to other lines."

P & O have 83 ships, most of which operate abroad. Five ferries in the Irish, Scottish and North Sea trades have been stopped, but others, on the Channel and from Southampton, are still operating.

P & O said last night: "We hope the NUS executive will take a sane view. As they have said, this is a political dispute."

"All the businesses affected are fighting a recession and cannot be expected to sustain the kind of losses that are rising from this dispute, which must put both the businesses and jobs at risk."

Leaders of Britain's 30,000 Merchant Navy officers and masters are to recommend acceptance of a 7.7 per cent pay offer from shipowners (the Press Association reports).

Earlier the unions, the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers Association, Radio and Electronic Officers, Engineering Workers, and the Mercantile Marine Service Association, had rejected a 5 per cent offer.

Alliance is split over GLC fares

By Our Transport Correspondent

The Liberals yesterday declared their support for the Greater London Council's cheap fares policy, being fought in the courts. But the social democrats came out against it.

The Conservatives have declared their implacable opposition to a policy that reduces fares 25 per cent at a cost of £220m on the rates, on whose legality the House of Lords is to pronounce next week.

In an editorial yesterday *Liberal News* described Lord Denning's ruling last week that the GLC policy was illegal as a "danger to political democracy". The party blamed the Government for politicising the issue far more than the GLC had done.

But the social democrats accused the GLC of peddling instant solutions and refusing to face the complex facts of transport in London. They need a policy for quality and reliability; fares were of secondary importance.

The Young Liberals went further. In a broadside Mr Mike Hamill, their political officer, said: "The GLC's fares fair policy was a brave attempt to get people back on public transport, as was their action in putting more money into improved buses and trains which the Tories had allowed to decay."

But in a briefing for London/Social Democratic Party members, Mr Jim Daly, former chairman of the GLC transport committee in the previous Labour administration and now an SDP member, says that the central weakness of the GLC policy is that Labour members will not accept the facts confronting them. Those are that passengers want quality of service rather than cheap fares.

HOW TO GET FAIR DEALS ON GLAZING

By Robin Young

A code of practice which may cut the 9,000 complaints received each year about the double-glazing industry was launched yesterday by Mr Gordon Borrie, Director-General of Fair Trading.

Mr Borrie, who recently forced several double-glazing companies to revise the terms and conditions used in their contracts, said that many people have suffered financial loss when installing double glazing.

Under the code, which is drawn up by the Glass and Glazing Federation and binding on its members, customers will be able to cancel orders up to five days after they have been signed.

Code of Ethical Practice, (Glass and Glazing Federation, 6 Mount Row, London W1V 6DV).

Raiders glued women together

Two women shop assistants at Blackpool were stuck together with superglue by raiders who stole £16,000 in cash and jewellery, it was said at Preston Crown Court yesterday.

Evan Pascall, aged 22, of Gooseander Court, Deptford, and Joseph Easterbrook, aged 23, of Braidwood Road, Catford, both south-east London, were each jailed for six years.

Esca Dolan, aged 23, of Mayeswood Road, Grove Park, west London, was acquitted.

BROKEN POT WAS MING JAR

A broken old pot glued together from two dozen pieces found on an Oxfordshire smallholding has turned out to be a sixteenth century Ming jar worth up to £25,000.

Mr George Cottrill, aged 67, of Wantage, took a fortnight to reconstruct the jar 19 years ago.

Patients at risk from old ECT machines

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Almost a third of machines used to give psychiatric patients electric shock treatment are obsolete and can result in prolonged loss of memory, a report published yesterday says.

Now Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, has ordered urgent steps to be taken to get rid of such obsolete equipment.

A working party has been set up by the Department of Health and Social Security to look at the question and to report in three months. It will also consider the buildings used for such treatment.

Yesterday's Royal College of Psychiatrists report looked at the use of electroconvulsive therapy (electric shock treatment) by questioning 3,221 psychiatrists and visiting 178 of the 590 units where ECT is used.

It says that only 72 per cent of machines use are up to date and that a quarter of the ECT clinics had deficiencies, including lack of respect for patients' feelings and poorly-trained staff.

Although ECT can only be prescribed by a consultant psychiatrist, its administration is often left to junior staff, half of whom have only been taught how to press the button.

Where too much electricity is delivered, either through poorly trained staff or poor machines, the patient can suffer loss of memory for longer than necessary.

Eight clinics were criticized as unsuitable for treatment. Nurses were described as bored, apathetic and hostile to ECT and the procedures as degrading and uncaring. It is said the doctors never visited the clinic. One was quoted as saying: "Give them a good dose and get it over with."

Another said: "There is none of your bloody soft psychotherapy here."

Unacceptable shortcomings, such as lack of respect for patients' feelings and ill-trained staff were found in 16 per cent of the clinics.

Sometimes lack of training meant that patients did not have a convulsion and therefore did not have treatment. Modern methods meant that convulsions were often not accompanied by physical seizures, so it was possible to think that a convulsion had taken place when it had not.

Fewer patients are being given ECT because of the increased use of drugs, particularly anti-depressants, but 98 per cent of the doctors surveyed, thought it was useful in certain cases.

Many favoured it for acute suicidal attacks.

About 200,000 individual treatments were given in 1979, about half the number given in 1972. The average patient received a course of between four and eight treatments over two to four weeks.

The therapy, the scientific base of which is not understood, is given under anaesthetic and is accompanied by a muscle-relaxing drug.

The report, written by Dr John Pippard and Dr Les Ellum, said that complications arising from the treatment were uncommon. One patient died during ECT and three others within 72 hours of treatment during the 200,000 treatments of 1979.

Psychiatrists assessing the outcome two weeks after a course of ECT found that 87 per cent of patients improved. General practitioners, reviewing patients after three months, reported 66 per cent improved.

Professor Kenneth Rawnsley, president of the Royal College, said that the college has been to right the deficiencies and had set up a committee to look at its implications.

Electroconvulsive Treatment in Great Britain, 1980, a report to the Royal College of Psychiatrists by John Pippard and Les Ellum, ISBN 0 902241 07.

Poll plea by council chief rejected

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Labour leader of London's Southwark Council has lost an appeal against a party decision to exclude him from the candidates' list for the local elections in May.

John O'Grady, aged 61, has been a member of the Labour party for 36 years, a Southwark councillor for 23 years and leader of the borough council for 14.

But a party hearing on Monday night rejected by four votes to three his appeal for approval as a Labour candidate in next year's local elections.

Mr Robert Mellish, Labour MP for Southwark, Bermondsey said last night: "I am shattered by this decision. He is an outstanding council leader, the best in London, yet now he is not even competent to stand as a councillor."

Mr Mellish, a former Labour chief whip, has already announced his intention to retire from the Commons before the next election, and his constituency party earlier this month picked a hard-left candidate to replace him.

The MP last night compared the record of the hard-left newcomers to the party in his constituency with Mr O'Grady's long service.

"We're not taking this from that lot," he said. He hinted at the possibility of forcing a by-election saying: "These people have got to be challenged on the streets."

Mr Mellish said he would meet those concerned to discuss the matter. Mr O'Grady could not be reached for comment last night.

But one person at the appeal said: "The whole thing was very vicious. It all boiled down to criticism that he had failed to take local party instructions into account."



Mr O'Grady, Labour member for 36 years

Racial bias 'not cause of poor educational ability'

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The poor attainment of ethnic minorities on the part of West Indian children in British schools is unlikely to be the result of either racial bias or lack of ability, a report by a committee of experts says.

Yet the indications were that Asian children were doing as well as English children.

It was not true that Asians in Britain tended to come from relatively middle class backgrounds, whereas West Indians came from an uneducated working class. The reality was far more complex.

A high proportion of Asians in Britain had very little education, spoke little English, and previously belonged to a peasant economy or were factory workers. A substantial minority had belonged to the middle class in their country of origin and had a high educational attainment.

By contrast, the educational background of West Indian parents tended to have been of a more consistent, middling standard.

He believed a possible explanation for the differences in attainment might lie in the tendency of Asians to have a more secure sense of belonging to a religious, linguistic and social group.

Racialism report, page 4



Lady Mary May on view again

A marble effigy of Lady Mary May, rediscovered by workmen renovating a family vault at St Nicholas Church, Mid Lavant, near Chichester, being examined yesterday by the rector, The Rev Keith W. Catchpole and Mr G. R. Claridge architect in charge of restoration. It is the work of John Bushnell, an

eminent but eccentric English sculptor, commissioned by Lady May, a wealthy villager, in about 1676. Only four other sculptures by Bushnell exist. One a bust of Charles II, is in Windsor Castle. Lady May later died of smallpox. Mr Claridge said: "Lady May's face shows poxmarks so Bushnell must

have come back to Lavant after her death and burial there to put the poxmarks into her effigy." It had been put in the vault about 100 years ago by a former Victorian vicar of Lavant who disliked its renaissance voluptuousness. The county medical officer certified the vault to be free from smallpox.

Dead boy was 'a tough customer'

From Our Correspondent, Norwich

Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, was a tough little customer, Andrew Clark, the Cambridge man accused of the manslaughter told Norwich Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Clark, aged 24, lover of Jason's mother, Mrs Christine Caesar, aged 25, told the jury: "Jason and I had a very good relationship. He was a very active child and a very tough little boy."

"He liked running about, before the child died the child suffered a black eye when he was going and when he did run into things he would not make a great fuss."

"I do not think he was any different from any other child. He liked to climb on the furniture and pull things out and generally investigate things in the house."

He said that two days

Boy aged two razes house

A boy aged two playing with matches burnt his grandfather's house to the ground yesterday.

Christopher Tetley, accidentally set light to a chair in the front room. His grandmother, Mrs Ann Wood, grabbed the boy and doused 959 but by the time the fire brigade arrived, the house in Loughborough Avenue, Nottingham, was in flames.

Some airlines have thrown out a few seats to make their executive class more comfortable.

Cathay Pacific threw out the lot.

Cathay Pacific, of course, has always had its Marco Polo class, but we took a little time before deciding how we could improve it. Fewer seats? More leg-room? Good, we decided, but not good enough.

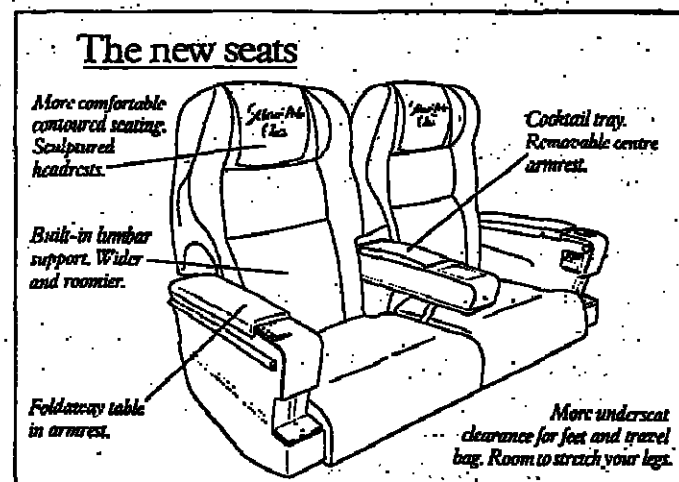
So we went shopping for an altogether new seat: a wider, roomier armchair with a specially contoured back and shaped headrest, and larger seat squabs.

It took us some time to find exactly what we were looking for, and when we did we found it also had longer armrests with their own built-in woodgrain table. And at least one other airline has chosen this design for its First Class cabins.

So we didn't just throw out a few seats — we threw out the lot, and put in these new ones. But not so many as before. We used to have 54 in our 747 Marco Polo class. Now there are only 42, so wherever you sit you'll never be further than one seat from the aisle.

Having gone to this trouble, we couldn't stop there. We're giving our Marco Polo Class travellers even more appetising food and finer wines.

Nothing more? Well, one thing. Subject to Government approval, we're putting the baggage allowance up to 30 kilograms. Contact your Travel Agent or phone us direct on 01-930 7878. You can depend on us.



Marco Polo BUSINESS CLASS

ABU DHABI · BAHRAIN · BANGKOK · BRUNEI · DUBAI · FUKUOKA · HONG KONG · JAKARTA · KOTA KINABALU · KUALA LUMPUR · LONDON · MANILA · MELBOURNE · OSAKA · PENANG · PERTH · PORT MORESBY · SEOUL · SINGAPORE · SYDNEY · TAIPEI · TOKYO

The Swire Group

Forest sold to private buyer under new Act

By Hugh Clayton

The Government has made its first sale in the partial "privatization" of the Forestry Commission. The commission said that 1,500 acres of woodland called The Stang, which account for nearly half of the planted area of Hamsterley Forest, county Durham, had been sold to a private buyer.

The commission would give no details. "It is an extremely commercial, confidential situation," it said. The privatization resulting from the Forestry Act, 1981, is being opposed by the Labour Party, trade unions and some Conservatives who fear that the Act contains too few safeguards for the forestry industry.

The most likely purchaser of The Stang is an institution such as a pension fund which wants a large long-term investment with a slow but dependable return. The commission said in its prospectus that The Stang offered a chance for "the discerning investor to acquire a substantial commercial block of mixed-age plantations".

The commission has put a further seven parts of forest with more than 4,000 acres on sale. Most are in remote parts of northern England, Scotland and west Wales. But the commission has encountered local protests about the fate of a piece of woodland which it has listed for possible sale.

Shoreham Woods, unlike the forests on sale, is in the heart of rural communities in western Kent. Opponents of a sale of the 250-acre wood claim that the Government has undertaken to keep it as a shield between the villages of Shoreham and the extension of the M25 which is to skirt south London.

Mrs Jean Latham, chairman of Shoreham Parish Council, said: "Should it ever be felled, it would alter the whole character of the Darenth valley."

Forget adultery, Vickers murder trial jury told

The jury trying the case against Paul Vickers, the Newcastle surgeon, and Pamela Collison, his former mistress, was told by the judge yesterday that they both had had to listen "to a lot of rather sordid details".

Mr Justice Boreham, opening his summing-up, at Leeds Crown Court, said: "I suspect there are at least some of you who have thought they are very little to the credit of the two people in the dock as far as their moral behaviour is concerned."

"That must not impinge your judgment. This is not a court of morals. It is a court of law. The charge is murder, not committing adultery."

He said that the time had come to take a long, cool, calm and, and above all, dispassionate look at the evidence. He continues his summing-up today.

Earlier, Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for Miss Collison, said that the evidence had established that far from being a ruthless, cold, calculating, masterful and dominant personality as the prosecution made out, she was seeking

affection and approbation, being naive and allowing herself to be dominated and used over and over again.

Mr Stewart said that these were "foul plays" in the prosecution case against her.

Miss Collison, aged 34, of Margaret Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, and Mr Vickers, aged 47, of Moor Crescent, Rosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, both deny murdering the surgeon's wife with the anti-cancer drug CCNU.

Mr Stewart, making his closing speech, said that the prosecution's case was founded on a plot to kill Mrs Vickers. "If there was no plot, Miss Collison is not guilty. It follows if Mr Vickers is acquitted of murder, in our submission you must acquit her," he said.

He said there was nothing to show that Miss Collison knew at the time that Mr Vickers was going to administer the drug to his wife.

"There is no evidence she knew Vickers intended, if he did intend, to kill his wife."

The case continues today.

Jobless man's suicide

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

A man hanged himself after leaving a note saying he was going away to look for a job, an inquest was told yesterday.

Tomothy Pinnington, aged 26, was found lying on a makeshift bloodstained bed in the loft of his parents' home.

His father, Mr Edmund Pinnington, told the inquest at Waterloo, Merseyside, that he last heard from his son on September 18 when he saw the note lying on a settee at home in Blundellsands.

Some days later he heard noises coming from the loft and eventually went to investigate, believing birds had got in. He discovered his son's body on October 3.

"I do not know why he

should take his own life, he was not worried about anything," he said.

Police Sergeant Christopher Woodruff said a broken belt was looped around his neck and another belt hung from a beam above him. His wrists were cut and bandaged and bloodstained towels were nearby.

Dr Philip Taylor, a pathologist, said the cause of death was hanging. He believed Mr Pinnington had died on September 22.

Mr Ronald Lloyd North Merseyside coroner recorded a verdict that Mr Pinnington had killed himself while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

MPs study rival electric rail policies

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

The Government's piecemeal approach to railway electrification is to be examined by the all-party Commons Transport Committee, it was announced yesterday.

In particular, the committee wants to see whether the policy, announced in June by Mr Norman Fowler, when he was Secretary of State for Transport, of approving individual electrification schemes rather than the 20-year rolling programme as advocated by British Rail might increase costs and create difficulties for BR and contract industries.

The committee's hearings will start in the new year, and evidence on the following terms of reference is invited:

1. Was the joint British Railway/Department of Transport review of February last year, recommending the largest and fastest option of electrifying up to 3,400 route miles at a cost of up to £1,000m, based on realistic assumptions, and would it represent an appropriate use of the nation's resources?

2. Would the alternative policy of ad hoc approval of individual schemes on the basis of profitability and productivity improvements seriously increase the cost of electrification, and create planning difficulties for British Rail?

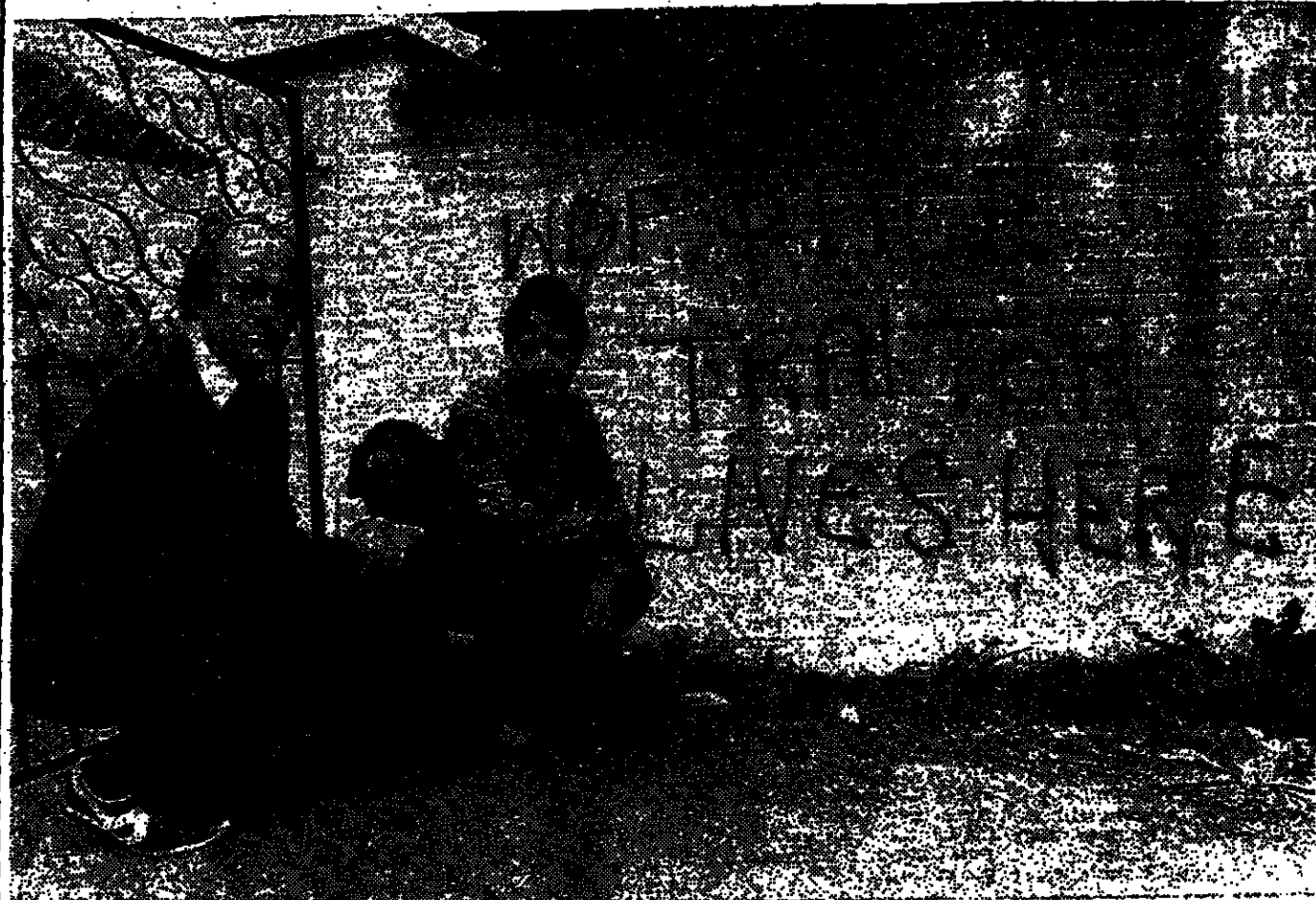
3. To what extent are the benefits from electrifying individual routes inter-related, and is it therefore possible satisfactorily to evaluate individual proposals without knowing the future extent of the whole electrified network?

4. To what extent will the success of electrification depend on improved productivity and working practices?

5. How true is the Government's contention that Inter-City business has not made progress towards earning an adequate return on the assets employed.

Home office report on racialism

Jonathan Pryor



Mrs Flather and her husband by their graffiti-daubed front gate

Asians bear brunt of attacks

The scale and nature of racial attacks as described in the Home Office study issued yesterday is illustrated by the following examples in which Asians have been assaulted and/or their property attacked by white people (Lucy Hodges writes).

The cases illustrate that Asians are often the main target for attack, rather than people of West Indian origin, and that the violence is not confined to inner-city areas but is also perpetrated in the affluent suburbs against prominent members of society.

Case No 1 concerns a Bangladeshi garment workers' family, which does not want to be named, but suffered attacks over months from white youths in and around a housing estate in Mile End, Tower Hamlets, east London.

The father said that he has had stones hurled at him on the way to and from work. Two of his four children, when aged seven and 10, had been kicked and punched on way home from school.

The attacks, which were at their height last year, have eased partly because of protection offered to the family by a white vigilante group. In the space of three weeks, windows of his home were broken on three occasions.

It was discovered that much of the harassment was coming from one white family which was told in no uncertain terms to desist. It did. The father said he got no help from the police.

Case No 2 concerns a Conservative councillor of Asian origin whose home in Maidenhead, Berkshire, was attacked in September when a 16-inch iron pipe was hurled through a kitchen window.

That attack was different from the first case because it was clearly planned and seemed to be the work of a white racist group who daubed "Wegs out" and "Race traitor lives here" on the walls. The latter piece of graffiti was a reference to Mrs. Shirela Flather's husband, a white barrister.

Mrs Flather, photographed above, is the country's first non-white woman JP and a commissioner with the Commission for Racial Equality. She said the attackers had clearly wanted to cause personal injury.

Case No 3 concerns another Asian, Mr Ismaail Patel, who also lives in Newham, east London. He was injured in July after a dispute which turned into a fight between gangs of white and Asian youths.

It was alleged that he was cut across the forehead and had to have stitches and hospital treatment. That happened after two youths shouted something at Mr Patel about his nationality as he was on his way to the mosque.

He chased them away and when he returned from the mosque found that a brick had been thrown through his window. A fight broke out. The police were not convinced that Mr Patel was blameless or that the attack was racial.

An unrelenting campaign of hate

By a Staff Reporter

Racial attacks are happening on a larger scale than anybody thought, are affecting Asian more than black people, but are not concentrated in the inner cities, a Home Office study says.

After a two-month survey of police records in 13 areas, Home Office officials were given reports on 2,851 victims of racial incidents.

A quarter of these were racially motivated and officials estimated that, at the present rate, about 7,000 or so such incidents would be reported in England and Wales in a year. They said that was a low estimate.

The survey found that Asians were 50 times more likely than white people to be victimized and blacks were 36 times as likely to be attacked. Different ethnic groups suffered from different kinds of harassment.

Asians were more likely to be the victims of arson, to receive abusive telephone calls and to have windows smashed. Whites were more likely to have handbags snatched or property stolen.

The survey covered the police authorities of Bedfordshire, Greater Manchester, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Merseyside, South Wales, Sussex, Thames Valley, Warwickshire, West Midlands and West Yorkshire and the Metropolitan Police.

Home Office officials talked to the police, local authority officials and minority groups in what was essentially an informal gathering exercise rather than a formal inquiry.

Everywhere they went they heard accounts of racial violence, abuse and harassment. In most places they were told that things had become much worse in the past year and that white skinheads were responsible.

They were told of assaults, postings in the streets, abusive remarks, broken windows, slogans daubed on walls as

well as murders and serious assaults.

"It was clear to us that the Asian community widely believes that it is the object of a campaign of unrelenting racial harassment which it fears will grow worse."

"In many places we were told that Asian families were too frightened to leave their homes at night or to visit the main shopping centre in town at weekends when gangs of young skinheads regularly congregated."

Although the report describes the lack of confidence which minority groups have in the police response to racial offences, it says the police are concerned that the nature of racial incidents makes them difficult to investigate properly.

It is often difficult to trace someone who throws a brick through a window at night unless a pattern of attacks becomes evident. The police

also pointed out that they could not arrest someone unless they had evidence.

Minority groups will understand that and interpret such a response as a lack of police interest, the report said. Nevertheless it is critical of the way in which the police handle racial attacks in general.

"There was a tendency on the part of the police to underestimate the significance of racialist incidents and activities for those attacked or threatened."

"There is a need to make

more widespread the sensitivity which undoubtedly already exists among many police officers."

The report also suggests that local authorities need to play a co-ordinating role, many do not, and that teachers need to do more to combat racialism.

"There are worrying signs that racist activity in schools has been on the increase," it adds. "Teachers often appear to have difficulty in knowing how to react, although it is clear that a firm response to the outward manifestation—badges, leaflets, abuse—can be effective."

The report criticizes community relations councils for sometimes being more concerned with propaganda than with resolving the problems of those they claim to represent. They are accused of not always encouraging black people to contact the police over a complaint.

In the long term this could hinder police-community relations, it said.

The officials found there was a tendency of ethnic minorities to over-estimate the capacity of the police. "Despite some problems of language, it is clearly essential that reports of alleged incidents are made and made quickly, or else the trail for the police goes cold," it said.

"If rapid communication fails, it simply stores up misunderstanding and misrepresentation."

The survey did not find evidence that right-wing racist organizations were deliberately planning racial attacks. "But it has found that the propaganda of such groups is a crucial element in creating the climate in which a minority of people find it fashionable to engage in overt displays of violent racialism."

It said that the racist components in this violence and the racist aspects of hegemonism were particularly pernicious and damaging.

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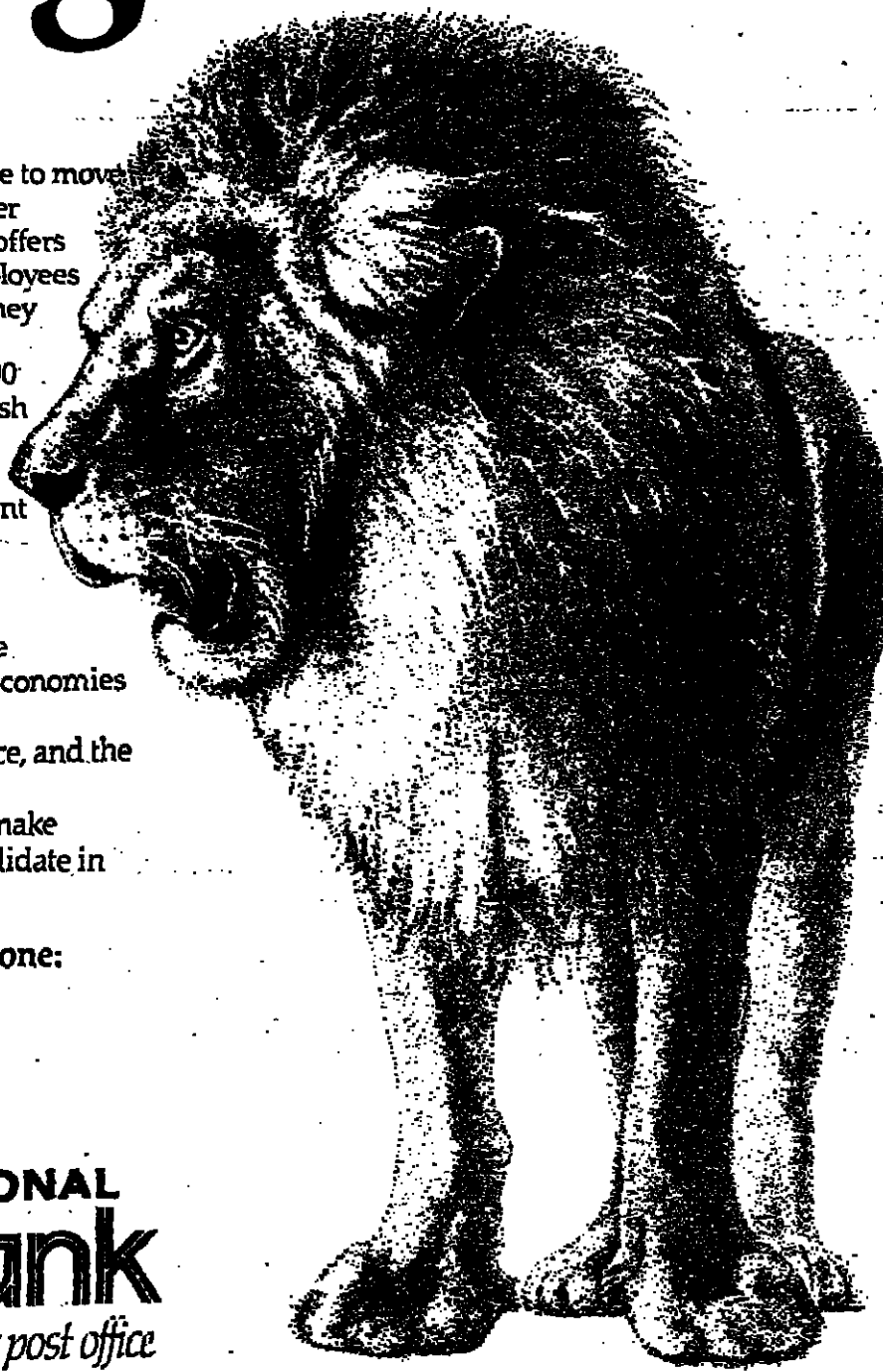
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Blue words case adjourned

Blue language came naturally to the boisterous barmaid at a Conservative club, an industrial tribunal in London was told yesterday.

When a member remarked that she looked tired, Mrs Sylvia Guard, the barmaid, replied: "Well my — feet hurt, don't they?"

"This is one of the words that she uses fairly regularly," Mrs Audrey Pocock, associate member at Wimbledon Conservative Club, south London, said.

When the Conservative women went on an outing to the Isle of Wight, blue language led to bawdy scenes and red knickers were displayed in the restaurant of the Solent Court Hotel, the tribunal was told.

Mrs Pocock of Effra Road, south London, claimed that as

the women started eating their soup, Mrs Guard and her friends were singing *Land of Hope and Glory*.

Mrs Guard was alleged to have said: "Why aren't you more important, your country or your — dinner?"

Another woman said to be in Mrs Guard's party, jumped on to a table and lifted her skirt to reveal long red knickers. Then a second woman jumped up to show off her underwear. "The behaviour was really disgusting," Mrs Pocock said.

Mrs Guard, aged 45, of Gale Close, Mitcham, Surrey, was dismissed after an emergency meeting of the club committee. She is claiming unfair dismissal from the club. The hearing was adjourned until December 15.

Birth rate drop disputed

By a Staff Reporter

The birth rate in the first half of 1981 in England and Wales declined by between four and five per cent, the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys said yesterday.

Estimated figures for five births in March and June this year were, respectively, 156,000 and 160,000, compared with 162,300 and 168,100 in the same months last year.

The decline appears to reverse a small but steady growth in the birth rate since 1977.

However, Dr David Every of the British Society for Population Studies said that the decline was "an optical illusion" as there had never been any significant increase in the first place. The apparent rise between 1977 and 1981 was merely a "slight

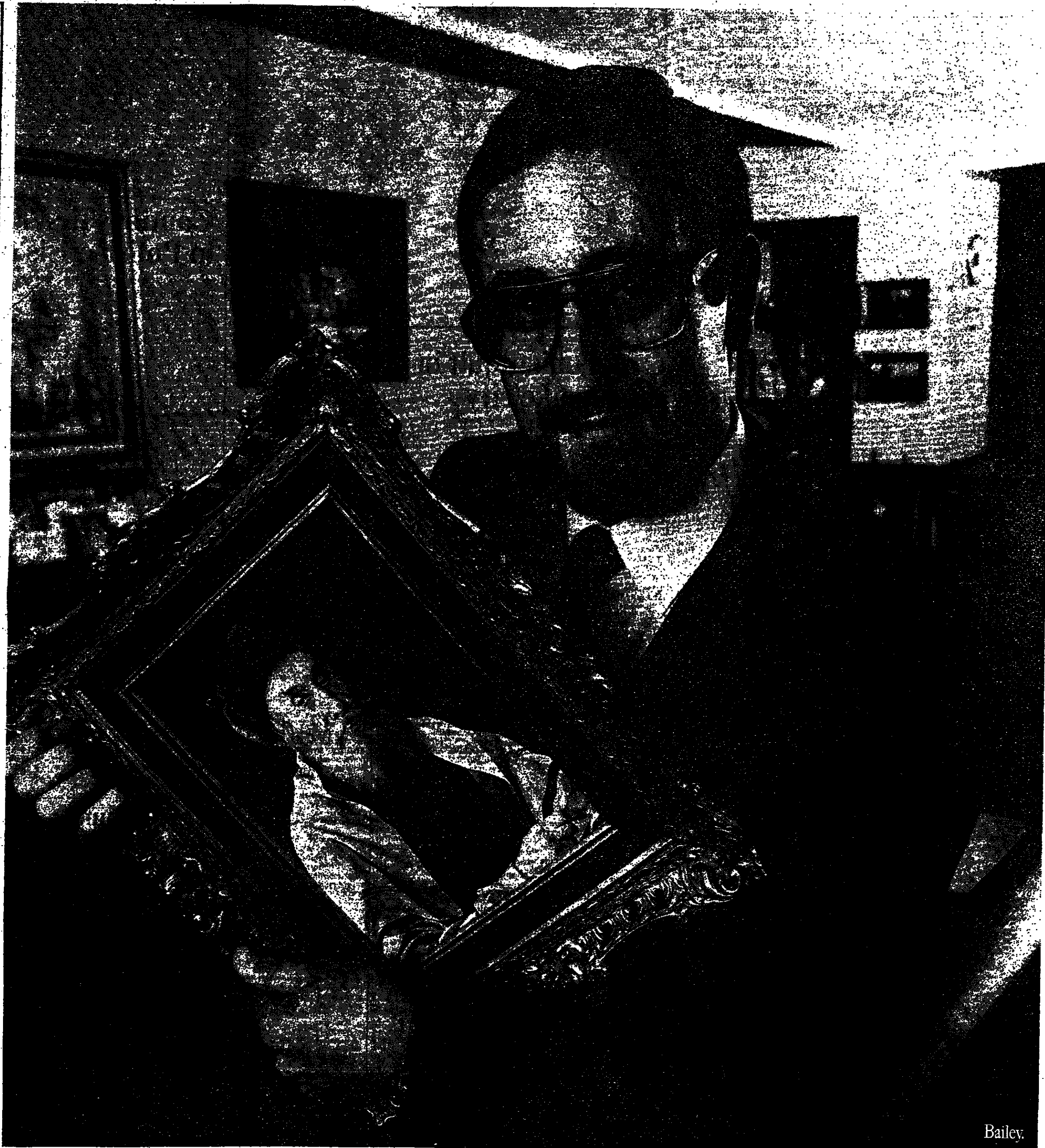
hiccup" in the statistics and took no account of the fact that fertility rates had been declining.

Results of the 1981 population census for Merseyside, also published yesterday, showed a decrease of 8.7 per cent since 1971, from 1,556,545 to 1,511,915. The steepest decline, 15.4 per cent, was in the Liverpool district.

Those figures were typical of the country as a whole, the census office said. "Metropolitan areas are losing population, and the larger the population, the faster the decline."

Census figures for the Welsh county of Gwynedd showed that 61.2 per cent of the population are Welsh-speaking, a decline of 3.5 per cent in ten years.

"How I became one of the richest clients I have."



Bailey.

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I first decided I would travel while I was shivering through my first three months of business in our unheated sun lounge.

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What do I mean by selling? I mean communicating. Going out and talking to people, uncovering financial problems they may be unaware of, and then creating solutions so attractive that they just have to be accepted.

I need the best tools for the job, the products, ideas and information which come from first-rate life companies. For their innovative products and the back-up

Tony Gordon on selling.

they give, I rate Albany Life among the best.

They have helped us grow. No longer a sun lounge, you'll now find Redcliffe Associates in rather elegant offices, fully equipped with our own computer. After all, a prosperous, comfortable environment helps you and your clients feel relaxed and confident.

But our job is to take our services to the public. So it is in their offices, and sometimes their homes, where most of our business is still done.

How do we find prospects, people to talk to? In my early days a prospect was anyone I came in contact with: the plumber, the carpenter, the electrician, the lively young garage mechanic and the man in the corner shop.

Now, many of those are wealthy and successful people who recommend us to other wealthy and

successful people. It's their way of repaying us for the service they receive. It's what you sell that's important, the quality of your advice, the service you give, the products and companies you use.

About 70% of our new business comes from existing clients. That's because they are happy with us. When we promise to "look after their retirement planning and insurance needs for the next 30 years," we really mean it, so we can't give them less than the best.

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Albany Life



Russia sticks to five-year targets despite setbacks

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, Nov 17

The Soviet Union today announced that it was sticking to its targets for the current five-year plan, in spite of this year's disastrous harvest and the economic difficulties admitted by President Brezhnev yesterday.

At the opening session of the Supreme Soviet, the equivalent of Parliament, Mr Nikolai Baibakov, chairman of the State Planning Committee, said the annual grain harvest until 1985 would be 239 million tonnes.

Like Mr Brezhnev, he gave no figure for this year's harvest, which is reliably reported to be no higher than 175 million tonnes. But he said that in four years' time the Russians would be producing 18.2 million tonnes of meat and 102 million tonnes of milk a year.

Mr Baibakov told the 1,500 deputies assembled in the hall in the heart of the Kremlin that overall the Soviet economy would grow by 18 per cent in the five-year plan, which began in January. Industrial production would go up 26 per cent and agricultural output 13 per cent.

For the current year, which Mr Brezhnev told the Party Central Committee yesterday was a rather poor one, Soviet national income—the rough equivalent of gross national product—would grow by 3 per cent, with industrial output rising less than planned at 3.4 per cent. The target for next

year was similarly modest, with an overall growth of 3 per cent. The state planning chief did not hide his disappointment that growth appears to be so meagre. There would have been greater success he said, "had it been possible to overcome shortcomings in the work of a number of industrial ministries and enterprises. These shortcomings, and also the difficulties that developed in agriculture did not make it possible to ensure... implementation of annual planned assignments".

Mr Brezhnev said yesterday that the improvement in food supplies was the country's main political and economic problem. Today he heard Mr Baibakov explain that the wanted emergency food programme would be based on priority growth and rates of output of grain and fodder.

In the next five years investment in agriculture would amount to nearly 190,000 million roubles (\$145,000m) and would swallow some 27 per cent of all Soviet capital investment.

Mr Baibakov promised that real incomes for the Russians would grow by 15 per cent during the current plan, and he said new consumer goods would be available to satisfy people's needs.

On the industrial front the output of oil is planned to reach 630 million tonnes a year by 1985. Gas will reach 630,000 million cubic metres, an increase of 45 per cent on the

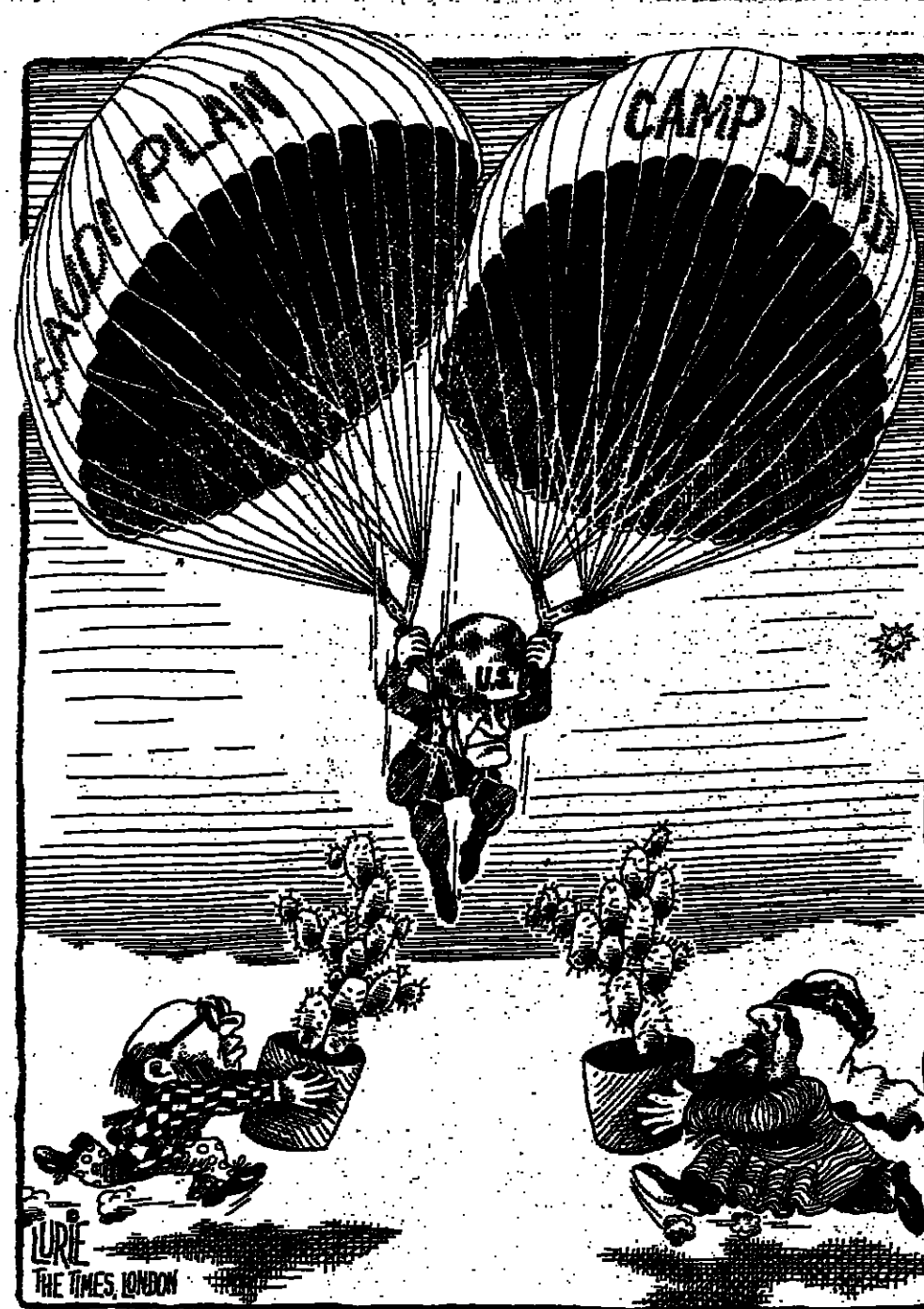
last year of the old plan, and the output of coal in 1985 will be 775 million tonnes.

Altogether the vast sum of 132,000 million roubles will be invested in fuel and energy, half as much again as in the last plan. Soviet foreign trade would grow by 22.5 per cent during the current plan, but the emphasis would be on trade with other communist countries, which would increase its share from 54 to 58 per cent.

All these figures were heard with what looked like bored patience from a sea of deputies, assembled from all parts of the country. The Supreme Soviet consists of two chambers, the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities, and they meet in joint session twice a year for only three days to approve the plans laid before them.

After Mr Baibakov's report, further details of the national budget were given by Mr Yevsey Garbuzov, the Finance Minister. He attacked the aggressive intentions of the West, and suggested the Russians would have to spend a lot of money to maintain combat readiness.

But the defence budget he announced remained the same as last year's, at 17,050 million roubles, or 5.3 per cent of state expenditure. Western analysts say the real figure is at least twice as much because many items of defence spending are accounted for under different headings.



PLO ambushes West Bank Arab leader

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, Nov 17

The struggle between radical and moderate Arabs in the occupied West Bank escalated today when the Palestine Liberation Organization claimed responsibility for an ambush which severely wounded one of the local leaders it has accused of collaborating with Israel.

The attack was launched as Mr Youssef El Khatib, chairman of the newly formed Ramallah district villages league, was driving to his office here with his aged 25-year-old son.

Mr El Khatib, who had been opened fire at a crossroads, killing the son instantly and hitting Mr El Khatib in the head. Tonight he was in a critical condition in an Israeli hospital.

Israeli troops immediately launched a wide-ranging security operation arresting several dozen Arabs for interrogation. Road blocks were set up near the town and soldiers patrolled in vehicles equipped with heavy machine guns.

Since the appointment of an Israeli civilian governor of the West Bank on November 1 the authorities had been banking heavily on winning the cooperation of the three existing village leagues in an attempt to introduce limited self-rule for the 700,000 Arab inhabitants.

Mr El Khatib, aged 60, was a village mukhtar who became self-appointed leader of the Ramallah league on its foundation in December 1980. Like other league leaders in the Hebron and Bethlehem districts, he was prepared to co-operate closely with Israel in exchange for substantial development funds.

For weeks the Israelis have been providing a round-the-clock guard for the founder and overall leader of the leagues, Mr Mustapha Duden, a former Jordanian Cabinet minister. But in spite of repeated death threats from radical Palestinians in the form of leaflets and radio broadcasts from Lebanon, it appeared that no adequate protection was provided for Mr El Khatib.

When I visited his headquarters less than three hours after the shooting there were no Israeli soldiers in the vicinity and only two frightened looking Arab supporters. The two-roomed office over Ramallah's Gardena restaurant.

Neither would discuss whether they would now stay in the town or leave.

whether they would now stay in the town or leave. The idea of establishing the league is attributed to Professor Menachem Milson, the new civilian governor. He argued the possibility of organizing the conservative rural population which makes up 70 per cent of the West Bank, as a counterweight to the radical 30 per cent living in the towns.

In a statement issued in Beirut, a PLO spokesman said that the organization would continue to strike at what he described as "enemies involved in the autonomy plan".

Today's ambush came after more than two weeks of some of the worst Arab disturbances and punitive Israeli reprisals seen in the West Bank since its conquest in 1967. In diplomatic circles it was regarded as the opening of an extended violent struggle between local Arabs backing the PLO and those willing to cooperate openly with Israel.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, Palestinian disturbances continued. In Bethlehem a further 15 Arabs were made homeless after the Israelis dynamited the house of a family whose teenage son was suspected of throwing petrol bombs at Israeli vehicles. The move brought to five the number of Arab houses demolished as reprisals in the past 48 hours.

There was uproar in the Knesset, when Mr Charles Bitan, of Israel's new Communist Party, claimed that the policy of blowing up houses was comparable to that practised by Hitler in Nazi Germany.

Mr Bitan was ejected after refusing to withdraw his statement or leave the chamber. □ Tel Aviv—An Israeli military court sentenced four Palestinian guerrillas to life imprisonment today for killing six Jewish settlers in the West Bank town of Hebron in May last year (Reuters reports).

The four were found guilty last week of shooting and murdering the settlers while they were returning from Sabbath eve prayers at Hebron's Cave of Patriarchs.

Bright Star shines in air defence

From Robert Fisk, Cairo, Nov 17

An assortment of Soviet and American-manufactured ground-to-air missiles were fired into the sky 25 miles north-west of Cairo this afternoon as Egyptian and United States troops showed off their anti-aircraft defence systems in the Western Desert in their second day of joint training.

The Americans made no bones about who their presumed enemy might be: several of their aerial targets turned out to be 30 models of the Soviet MiG-23 fighters, complete with red stars on the wings and tails.

Lieutenant-Colonel Darrel McFarren, of the American Eighteenth Airborne Division, claimed later that the practice shoot had been a valuable experience because his troops had been able to see the Soviet equipped Egyptian air defence system in action—the type of system, as he put it, "that we could encounter in combat".

American troops scored a direct hit and two technical kills—which in military jargon means near misses—with three shoulder-fired "Redeye" heat-seeking missiles before the Egyptian Army employed its own Soviet-manufactured Sam 7 missiles hitting a piloted drone with the first shot.

Both the Syrian Army and guerrillas of the Palestine Liberation Organization are equipped with Sam 7s and it would not be surprising if the Israelis took a particular interest in today's exercise.

The American rapid deployment force, whose 4,000 men are taking part in the "Bright Star 82" manoeuvres, also displayed its portable Chaparral heat-seeking missiles which were fired from tanks at a series of orange drones.

Lieutenant-General Robert Kingston, the commander of the United States force, claimed that the two armies had put on "a damn good exercise", a view apparently shared by Lieutenant-General Muhammad Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala, the Egyptian Defence Minister, who sat beside the American officer, smiling broadly throughout the display.

Communists quit in earthquake city

From Peter Nicholls, Rome, Nov 17

The political earth is shaking in the south with the resignation today of the Communist administration in Naples a week from the first anniversary of the huge earthquake which cost nearly 3,000 lives.

The Communist mayor, Senator Maurizio Valenzi, was still too unwell after a recent operation to attend the session of the municipal council which marked the close, for the moment at least, of six years of left-wing rule in the south's largest city.

Last week Signor Valenzi was abandoned by the Socialists and the Christian Democrats. Today the Christian Democrats formally put an end to his administration by passing a motion of no confidence on the grounds of inefficiency.

As a result Senator Valenzi and the remaining nine Communist councillors threw in their hand. Unless the left-wing alliance can be put together again, the alternative looks like local elections.

The regional administration in Campania, of which Naples is the capital, had already resigned. The consequences of elections at such a moment could clearly be serious. Campania was badly hit by the earthquake. Naples itself appeared at first to have escaped reasonably unscathed, and with almost no loss of life, but as time has passed the city, too, has felt tragically the after-effects of the disaster.

Whole districts in the old centre are now uninhabitable because of structural weaknesses in the ancient buildings. Immigrants have moved in from the damaged villages in the countryside.

Sensor Valenzi himself was the Government's commissioner responsible for a massive programme of new housing intended to relieve some of the

social pressures, of which the worst are a lack of housing and work. He expected the project to give new life to the city's economy.

But he failed to gain the Government's agreement to the zoning of army units in the zone chosen for the new housing estates. His hope was to keep criminal speculation and illegal squatting out of the whole scheme.

His six years in charge of Naples taught him some unpleasant facts. One of the city's maladies, he has said repeatedly, was that security rather than the chance to work was the first consideration of the people. This outlook has certainly worsened since the earthquake struck Campania and Lucania.

In Naples itself 143 schools are still occupied by 12,000 people without homes: in all the homeless total about 170,000. The housing plan for which Senator Valenzi is responsible was based on £1,000m expenditure.

But there have been nearly 200 gang murders so far this year in the Naples area alone, and trafficking in drugs and prostitution are increasing fast. Few people in Naples doubt that social problems of this magnitude can only encourage terrorism and crime.

The shortage of schools was already felt before the earthquake. Now, with the occupation of school buildings in the old centre of Naples, the poorer families suffer most. Student demonstrations are frequent because of the lack of facilities and of work.

Almost all the deaths and the destruction of whole towns and villages occurred largely in the mountainous areas to the south of Naples. Heavy winter has returned. Temperatures well below zero are reported, with biting winds as the first snow falls.

Unions in attack on Reagan

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, November 17

The hundredth birthday convention of the American labour movement is turning into a hostile demonstration of anti-government feeling.

The tone was set yesterday when Mr Lane Kirkland, president of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), called President Reagan a "man with a cold heart and a hard fist".

Mr Walter Mondale, the former vice-president, who is a front-running presidential aspirant for 1984, said he could not remember a president who had treated relations with organized labour as Mr Reagan has.

Mr Thomas O'Neill, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, said the President was no friend of the working man. "The sad truth is that his reaction is the direct result of the Reagan Administration policy."

It is a terrible time for the trade union movement to be celebrating its centenary. Led by Mr Reagan's example, in dealing firmly with the sick and the injured, the Reagan administration has been taking over the country are taking on unions and winning strikes. Strikes are fewer, and union membership is declining.

Unions represent a fifth of the national work force. In the 1930s they represented over a quarter. The most heavily unionized industries are those in most trouble, including the car industry, rubber and steel and even in these members are voting for wage cuts to keep their companies alive and competitive.

The number of workers voting to withdraw union recognition is increasing. In 1979 workers in 77 plants voted for decertification elections. Ten years ago the figure was 293.

Computer-based technologies have shown unionization. Small plants, staffed with mainly white-collar workers, or production plants, are heavily automated that managerial staff can easily keep production lines running, have kept the unions out.

Even in the coal industry, owners are starting non-union mines in the heart of the Illinois field.

Mr Kirkland has to bring the union movement up to date. The mud and clay, which has preserved this "bug" archaeological site from the depredations of time will be put back.

Now that the site is uncovered, life is taking its toll. "Now that the site is uncovered," explained Mr Margaret Rule, the project's chief archaeologist.

S Africa has uranium for power station

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Nov 17

South Africa says it has acquired enough enriched uranium to supply the country's first nuclear power station under construction at Koeberg, near Cape Town, and to enable the plant to start operating on schedule from the end of next year.

Supply of the fuel had been in doubt after America's decision five years ago to stop sending shipments of enriched uranium to South Africa because of Pretoria's refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Natural uranium is mined extensively in South Africa and Namibia by Rio Tinto Zinc and other multinational firms, but the uranium ore has to be sent abroad for enrichment. The enriched material is then sent to France to be made into fuel rods for the reactor.

America's control of South Africa's enriched uranium supplies had been seen as a powerful bargaining lever which could have been used, with others, to apply pressure to Pretoria to grant independence to Namibia on terms acceptable to the international community.

It is Koeberg to be built, operating at 1,800 Mw, is planned for 1982. The fuel rods must be ready for loading next June or July. Any delay could lead to heavy losses for Eskom, South Africa's state-owned electricity

Supply Commission, which is financially responsible for the project. Now it appears that Eskom has been able to obtain the supplies it needs from non-American sources because of a world surplus of enriched uranium caused by cutbacks in many national nuclear power programmes.

News that the enriched uranium had been obtained was first disclosed last week by the French company which will turn it into fuel rods, and later confirmed by Eskom. The South Africans declined, however, to say where they had got the material.

According to newspaper reports here, Eskom is confident that the new source of enriched uranium can supply South Africa's needs until they can be met by the country's own gas centrifuge enrichment process under development at Valindaba. The Valindaba complex could be producing 50 tons of enriched uranium fuel a year by the mid-1980s.

There have been repeated allegations that South Africa is clandestinely developing a nuclear capability. It is thought that a satellite-observed explosion over the South Atlantic in September 1979 might have been caused by the testing of a nuclear device.

Cautious first round in Polish crisis talks

By Richard Boyer

The Polish Government and Solidarity, the independent trade union, both nervously treading a path between cautious concession and commitment to hard-won principle, last night opened a series of talks aimed at easing the political tension in the country.

But while both sides reaffirmed their goodwill, it was clear that there were still immense obstacles facing any attempt to form a coalition-style alliance.

The Government is pinning its hopes on a "Front of National Understanding" which would include other parties apart from the Communists—the Peasants' party and the small Democratic Party—as well as youth and women's organizations. Solidarity could have a consultative role in such a front.

But Solidarity has quite different ideas, demanding full partnership in a "social economic council", as well as increased access to television and radio time, an independent judiciary and free local elections.

The two sides are expected to break into six working groups which will examine in detail the main problems, including food pricing and distribution—and come up with joint proposals.

Unless common ground can be found on these issues, access to the state-controlled news media, the chances of an effective coalition are slight. Probably the most serious stumbling block is Solidarity's request for free local elections.

Leaders of the Silesian Solidarity branch have already called on their members to start selecting candidates for local government elections, though these too are likely to prove contentious.

The Government delegation is led by Mr Stanislaw Ciolek, the minister in charge of trade union affairs. Mr Stanislaw Wadolowski leads the Solidarity side.

challenging the procedure in force whereby candidates for election are chosen by the Communist-controlled National Unity Front.

The key point in the present talks is how the Government will react to the Solidarity election demands. If it shows signs of turning down the Silesian move, this will reinforce the scepticism in Solidarity who believe that the Government's talk of a Front of National Understanding is simply an attempt to disintegrate the independent union.

On the other hand, Solidarity seems to want to avoid a confrontation in the talks. Mr Marek Brunné, Solidarity's national spokesman, declared yesterday: "We are not preparing ourselves for an all-out bayonet charge on the Government."

The Government too has issued a statement indicating that it was ready to make some concessions, though these were certain to be limited to its negotiating position.

"The goodwill of the authorities and readiness for constructive cooperation cannot be indefinitely put to the test," it said, the statement stated.

These first round of talks last night was devoted principally to procedural matters, though these too are likely to prove contentious.

The Government delegation is led by Mr Stanislaw Ciolek, the minister in charge of trade union affairs. Mr Stanislaw Wadolowski leads the Solidarity side.

Dollar hunt to raise Mary Rose

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Nov 17

Amid the commercial-baron baroque of the New York Yacht Club, the Mary Rose Trust attempted to raise \$2m (£1m) and the Mary Rose itself.

The fight to lift Henry VIII's warship from the bed of the Solent has become a race against time. The ship must be raised by this time next year, otherwise the wreck will have deteriorated to an unacceptable extent.

If sufficient funds to complete the project are not forthcoming, a decision will have to be made, perhaps as early as January, to backfill the site. The mud and clay, which has preserved this "bug" archaeological site from the depredations of time will be put back.

Now that the site is uncovered, life is taking its toll. "Now that the site is uncovered," explained Mr Margaret Rule, the project's chief archaeologist.

Former leader dies in detention

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Nov 17

Johannesburg—Mr Tefihwa Mchale, a leader of the Black People's Convention died in detention last week two days after being taken to a police station in the Venda Bantustan (homeland). The Sowetan reported, giving as its source, that one of nine other people detained by the Venda police.

According to the paper, Azapo, the black nationalist movement, intends to sue the Venda government and has demanded a post-mortem examination of Mr Mchale, who was reported to have been in excellent health at the time of his arrest.

Washington—Dr C. Everett Koop, a Philadelphia surgeon and a strong opponent of abortion, is to become Surgeon General of the United States, after a long Senate confirmation battle which ended in a 68-24 vote in his favour.

Emergency continues

Colombo—The Sri Lankan Parliament has approved a resolution to extend the existing state of emergency for a fourth successive month because of the continuing spate of robberies.

Protest broken up

Khartoum—Sudanese riot police using batons and tear gas broke up an anti-government demonstration at Khartoum University by students who were protesting at recently announced economic measures, witnesses said.

Restricted coverage

Lusaka—Zambian television has only three reels of unused film left and will restrict film coverage to presidential functions until the end of January, the official Zambian News Agency reported.

Egyptian writer interrogated

From Our Correspondent, Cairo, Nov 17

Mr Muhammad Heikal, Egypt's internationally known author and journalist, was interrogated for more than three hours today in connexion with articles he has written opposing the late President Anwar Sadat's domestic and foreign policies.

Mr Heikal is among a wide spectrum of journalists, lawyers, academicians and religious figures detained during the last weeks of Mr Sadat's regime for allegedly discrediting the government abroad and fomenting sectarian strife.

Mr Mumtaz Nassar, Mr Heikal's lawyer, told The Times that the interrogations at the offices of the socialist prosecutor involved articles opposing the Camp David peace accords with Israel, the Jerusalem trip in 1977, and writings upholding the freedom of the press against controversial laws seeking to silence criticism and opposition.

Mr Heikal, aged 57, former editor of Al-Ahram, is the author of several books on Arab politics with emphasis on Egypt. He has also written articles for several Western newspapers, including The Times and the New York Times, and contributes to several Arab newspapers.

President Hosni Mubarak, who succeeded President Sadat, has said all those arrested under Mr Sadat would be released if proved innocent.



President Yitzhak Navon of Israel visiting Mrs Jihan Sadat in Cairo yesterday to offer his condolences to her. He read her a letter he received from President Sadat just before his assassination.

Bangladesh poll protest

Dacca, Nov 17.—The opposition Awami League led by Dr Kamal Hossain said today that it would organize a protest campaign against the election of Mr Abdul Karim Sattar, the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) as the country's new president.

[Results from all but one of the country's 21,873 polling centres gave Mr Sattar 14,217,501 votes, or 65.8 per cent of the polls against 6,984,889 votes for Dr Hossain, who got 26.35 per cent. AFP.]

Dr Hossain said the election was rigged and that there would be a protest march in Dacca tomorrow and a national protest on November 23.

Mr Sattar denied the rigging charge, saying such tactics were unnecessary when he had such a huge majority. The independent newspaper, New Nation, which supported the Awami League in the election campaign, said in an editorial today that there was no evidence of large scale rigging.

Mr Sattar told a press conference last night that Bangladesh would not devalue its currency at the behest of the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Sattar, who has been Acting President since President Zia-ur-Rahman was killed in an army mutiny in May, said he would carry on Zia's programme concentrating on reducing the nation's population growth, doubling food production, wiping out illiteracy.—Reuters.

Chad peace force chief arrives

By Our Foreign Staff

The Nigerian commander of the pan-African peace-keeping force for Chad arrived in Ndjamena, the capital, yesterday, and discussed his deployment with President Goukouni Oueddei.

General G. O. Eliga was accompanied by a high command of 18 officers from countries contributing to the force.

The Zairean contingent of about 700 is already in Ndjamena. The eventual size of the peace-keeping force is expected to be between 3,000 and 3,500 men.

Libya said Am Zor had fallen in east Chad—the fourth town to be taken over by Sudanese troops and rebels under Mr Hissène Habré, the former Chad defence minister. Sridan denies military involvement.

Rumours were denied in Tripoli last night that an attempt had been made to assassinate Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

The Libyan Foreign Information Department told Reuters by telephone from Tripoli: "This is not the first time we have had these rumours and this one is garbage." Colonel Gaddafi was in the capital.

The American State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency said they had no information about the rumours, circulating in Wall Street, that Colonel Gaddafi had been shot.

DRUG PERIL IN FRANCE

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Nov 17

Fifteen thousand people in of drugs, according to M René Teulade, president of the Fédération de la Mutualité Française, a private insurance organisation with a membership of 23 million.

He told a press conference yesterday that out of 100 deaths, nearly three were due to the ill-use or abuse of drugs. Professor Paul Lechat, an expert in pharmacology said the main danger lay in the interaction of various drugs.

During talks in London yesterday, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, expressed the British Government's concern that the Chilean Government had been unable to come up with a satisfactory reason for Mr Besuire's disappearance.

Mr Luce made it clear to Senator Miguel Kast, the Chilean Minister of Labour who is visiting Britain, that the Govern-

British seek truth on missing man

By David Cross

ment would not let the matter rest where it was. At the same time, Mr Denis Healey, the deputy leader of the Labour Party, called on the Chilean Ambassador in London to lodge a protest at the continuing failure of the Chilean Government to give an accurate account of the fate of Mr Besuire.

Mr Healey, who also raised the plight of other victims of Dina, pointed to inconsistencies in some of the statements made by the Chilean authorities about the Besuire case.

Neither Senator Kast nor the Chilean Ambassador was particularly forthcoming, but both promised to raise the matter with their colleagues in Santiago.

Mr Healey said that he would be forwarding a copy of an investigation by Mr Peter Archer, a former Solicitor-

Surgeon wins vote

Washington—Dr C. Everett Koop, a Philadelphia surgeon and a strong opponent of abortion, is to become Surgeon General of the United States, after a long Senate confirmation battle which ended in a 68-24 vote in his favour.

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Carrington warns EEC after frustrating talks

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 17

European foreign ministers ended two days of frustrating argument in Brussels today with little to show for their work.

Internally, progress towards agreement on reshaping the Community was so limited that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary and current president of the council, felt obliged to issue a stern warning about the consequences for Europe if attitudes did not change.

Externally, it continued to prove impossible to draw up the terms for sending a European peacekeeping force to Sinai in the face of comprehensive Greek refusal to accept such an idea at this stage.

The main work of the meeting centred on preparing the way for the European summit in London next week. That way ahead is still so obscure that the ministers are being recalled to Brussels on Thursday in the hope that in the interval they will separately realize that too much is at stake to prolong the argument.

"Either we make solid progress next week across the whole spectrum, in which case we will have given the Community the necessary impulse for change," Lord Carrington said, "or we fail to reconcile our differences and will have done a grave disservice to the Community as a whole."

The discussions, he went on, had been wide-ranging, covering agriculture, other policies and the budget. "I wish I could say that all these discussions were as fruitful as they were wide-ranging, but I could not go as far as that."

It was essential that the summit succeeded in reaching broad agreement on operational guidelines, so that work could go ahead to narrow the differences. Lord Carrington had accordingly asked the ministers to reflect carefully with their governments between now and the Thursday meeting.

There was a real danger if attitudes continued unchanged. It would be idiotic, he said, to pretend that there was at this stage anything like a clean substantive document put before the summit meeting with "a force" of national positions needing to be cut away.

Lord Carrington was more diplomatic in talking about the proposed European peacekeeping force for the Sinai. The problem was that the ministers had to state their intentions in the least provocative manner "and in the Middle East situation everything you say is provocative."

He refused to comment on the view put forward by M. Claude Cheysson, the French Minister, that the European force would in fact comprise not men, but materials. For Lord Carrington the important point to the United States, which had invited the participation of four European countries (Britain, France, Holland and Italy) — was that these countries agreed to take part.

The view of the new Greek Government is that sending in such a force would run counter to the wishes of the majority of Arab states and therefore should not be considered at this stage.

Mr Ioannis Haralambopoulos, the Greek Minister, would raise no objection to the four member states agreeing to send a contingent to the token force, but he would refuse to allow them to go in the name of Europe.

475 Troops in Salvador death toll

San Salvador, Nov 17 — A total of 475 soldiers, including 28 officers, have died in the first 10 months of the year, and more than a 1,000 were wounded in action against guerrillas, General Rafael Flores Lima, the Salvadoran armed forces chief, said here.

He could give no precise figures for guerrilla losses, but indicated as an example of the casualty ratio on either side that in current operations in the northern Cabanas district, the Army killed more than 150 guerrillas for the loss of 13 men and an officer and 20 wounded.

According to the legal aid service run by the Archdiocese of San Salvador, the Army killed 78 people during the last nine days of October.

The Minister of Defence denied a statement released by this service yesterday that 65 civilians, including 15 women and 44 teenagers, had been arrested recently and taken by helicopter to an unknown destination. — AFP

Havana. President Fidel Castro of Cuba said today that only a negotiated political solution could end the civil war in El Salvador. This was "the only sensible, intelligent and serious way to solve the problem," the official newspaper *Granma* quoted him as telling reporters.

Dr Castro said the Salvadoran Government, and the United States sought a military solution.

He denied American allegations that Cuba had sent between 500 and 600 troops to Nicaragua in September. But he said that 2,000 Cuban volunteer fighters, more than half of them women, had arrived there — Reuters.

Milestones in treating the blind

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Nov 17

A mobile medical team near Nairobi, will tomorrow carry out the ten millionth treatment to combat blindness using the technique of a mobile clinic, provided by the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind.

On the same day in India, a blind villager from near Delhi is due to have his sight restored by eye surgeons. He will be the one millionth patient to benefit from the sight restoration programme of the society.

A spokesman for the society in Nairobi said its programmes, operating in 36 countries, had benefited countless people since the society was formed in Britain 31 years ago.

The mobile clinic where the ten millionth treatment will be administered is at present operating 20 miles from Nairobi, but similar clinics are in constant use in widely scattered places, many miles from hospitals or other medical facilities.

Last year throughout the world, the society's facilities made it possible to treat 1.3 million patients for eye conditions which could have led to serious eye defects, while 31,963 operations were performed to prevent imminent blindness.

More than 50 mobile eye clinics provided by the society are working in 18 Commonwealth countries, often manned by staff from the local health service.

In Kenya, trachoma, a potentially blinding eye disorder, is the major cause of blindness. It is caused by a parasite which can be spread by flies and other insects. The society's clinics are saving the sight of thousands of people.

Parched plains of Castile yearn for healing rains

From Richard Wigg, Segovia, Nov 17

A flock of some 400 sheep nibble the hard dry stubble against the immense skyline of the Castilian plains. The shepherd holds a traditional crook in one hand, but from the other hangs a transistor radio.

"I no longer listen for the weather forecast. It has not rained in my village since May and I no longer believe in miracles," he says.

Two and a half months after the autumn rains should have commenced in this part of central Spain, the fields all look exactly as they did in August, after harvesting.

Where the shepherd should now be finding green pasture for his animals, which provide his sole means of livelihood, the remaining stubble offers the only chance to avoid the burden of buying barley throughout winter.

When he starts buying feed, water has been rationed.

Three brothers together farming 300 acres in a village near the Guadarrama mountains, say: "Even if it rains tomorrow, the blows for us have already fallen, for we have only harvested 45 per cent of our normal wheat and barley crop this summer because of the drought."

"The bill to keep all our 1,000 head of sheep alive is now running at 16,000 pesetas (more than £90) a day, plus straw, right through till next April. One year like this can wipe out three good years and put us millions of pesetas in debt."

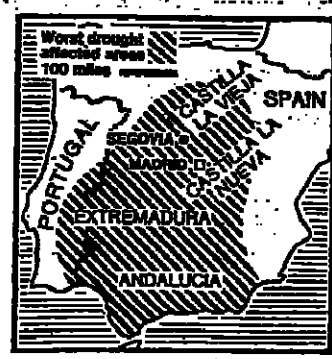
In their village drinking water has been rationed.

Another cattle farmer has water for his herd brought by tankers.

The 18-month drought, which is also affecting Andalusia and Extremadura, is probably the worst this century.

As the Government prepares a second set of costly emergency measures, Señor José Luis García, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, has estimated losses so far at 1,500m pesetas, only 40 per cent of which have been made good by the Exchequer.

The economics research team under Professor Fuentes Quintana, predicts a 6 per cent drop in national agricultural production this year. But if the whole of the sowing season goes by without prolonged rain, the drop could be 20 per cent over two years.



than 30 per cent full and other reservoirs are 25 per cent full, compared with 57 per cent last year. This year's sowing season may be affected for the second year running by lack of snow.

Scientists have added to the gloom by pointing out that the "Golden Age" (1956 to 1975) was the most rainy period of the century and an exception. Large parts of "Dry Spain" may now be going back to normal, which could put in question some of the techniques of modern agriculture.

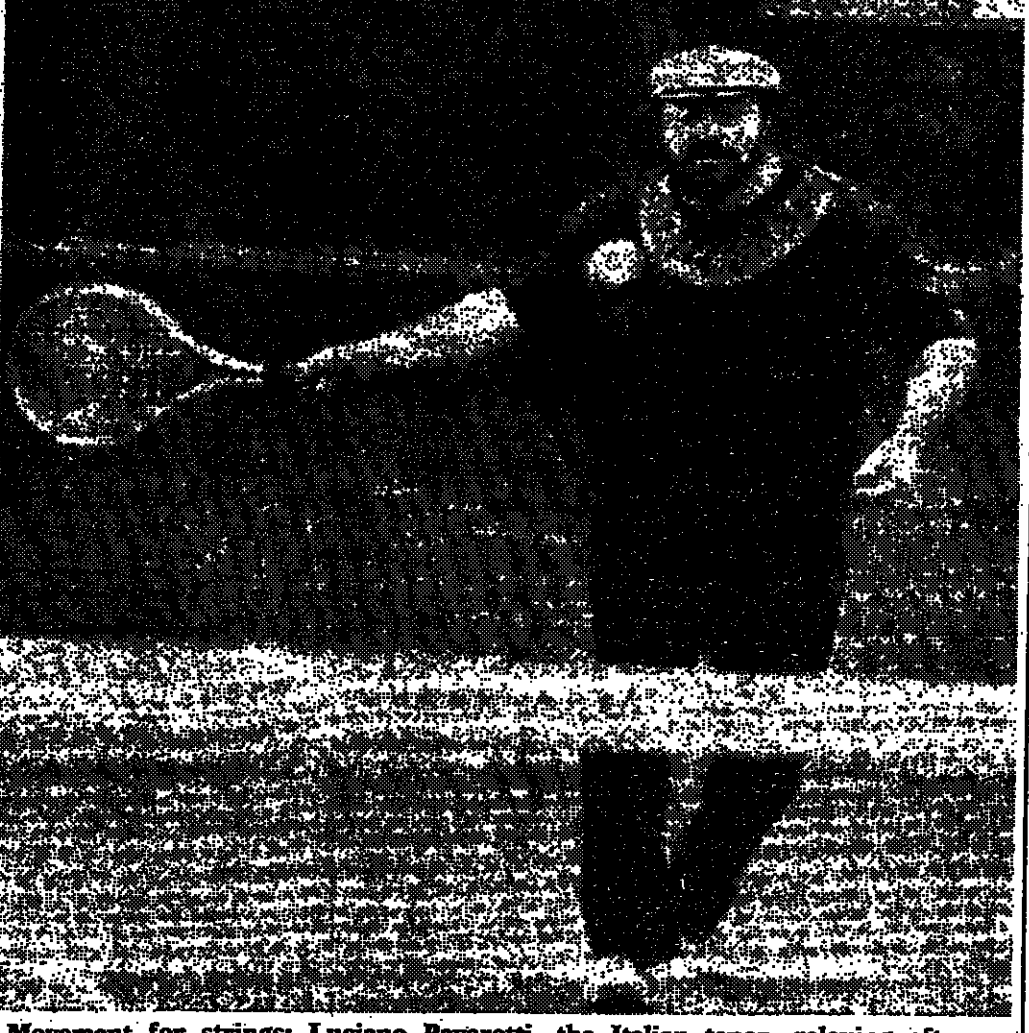
Cardinal González Martín, the Primate of Spain, last week had thousands of people go through the streets of Toledo praying for an end to the drought. "God is above the laws of nature and can help us in our necessities," he said.

Labour MEPs in socialist clash

From George Clark European Political Correspondent Strasbourg, Nov 17

Seven British Labour MEPs were at loggerheads with the rest of the 120-strong European socialist group of the European Parliament today when they backed a left-wing declaration, supported by communists, calling for a debate in plenary session on nuclear disarmament.

The group has set up a working party to draw up an agreed statement, an unlikely prospect since some socialists refuse to accept that the European Parliament has any business discussing defence issues, believing that it should be restricted to matters covered by the Treaty of Rome.



Movement for strings: Luciano Pavarotti, the Italian tenor, relaxing after a performance of Aida in San Francisco, and getting in trim for the Pavarotti Pro-Am Tennis Tournament. Proceeds go to the San Francisco Opera Guild.

Bizarre trial in California Court hears offer to exchange Polish spy

From Ivor Davies Los Angeles, Nov 17

A Polish businessman has been found guilty here of complicity in espionage for helping an American aerospace engineer pass secret information to Warsaw.

Marian Zacharski, aged 30, offered no defence against the charge which was based on the evidence of William Bell, a former employee of the Hughes Aircraft Corporation. Mr Bell said he had paid Mr Zacharski \$95,000 (£49,000) for his part in the spying.

The lawyer for Mr Zacharski said he hoped the American Government would agree to send his client back to Poland in exchange for an unnamed American prisoner there.

For the past month observers at the espionage trial have been given a fascinating glimpse at what is purported to be the world of modern spying. The revelations came fast and furious during the trial, which ended yesterday.

According to the evidence the kind of conversation that might take place between a couple of spies meeting for the first time could be "the ice cold in Iceland?" drawing a response of "Yes, its good for ice tea."

Mr Bell, who is 61, was indicted with Mr Zacharski in June but avoided trial by pleading guilty to one count of espionage and will be sentenced on November 30. His guilty plea enabled the Government to put him on the witness stand as their chief prosecution witness.

Mr Bell is alleged to have provided secrets about an American "covert all-weather gun system" as well as an anti-tank weapon called the Tow missile, purely for financial gain. Over almost three years he is said to have travelled to Austria and Switzerland on four separate occasions and given filmed documents to two Polish agents. In return he received \$110,000 in money and gold coins.

The testimony was bizarre, even amusing, at times.

Mr Bell said Mr Zacharski gave him a special camera for photographing documents and sent him to men he believed were Polish agents. They gave him a tie rack with three hidden compartments. If the rack were opened by customs the film would be exposed and the documents obliterated. He thought it was a stupid idea because it would have aroused suspicion.

On another trip to Austria he said one of the agents suggested someone should drop a bag of gold coins in his basket while he was at a supermarket. "I thought that was stupid," he said, pointing out that he might have some difficulty explaining a bag of gold coins when he reached the checkout.

Mr Zacharski's defence lawyer portrayed Mr Bell as a trustworthy agent and described him as a Judas willing to betray his country for money. He insisted that Mr Zacharski was "on a commercial mission" for the Polish Government.

One of the prosecution witnesses, a retired Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, told the jury that apart from the Russians the Poles have the largest and most active hostile intelligence force in the United States.

But Mr Ernest Glinne (Belgium), leader of the group, criticized the British MEPs for "flying in the face of instructions." They are Mr Roland Boyes (Durham), Miss Ann Clwyd (Wales Mid and West), Miss Joyce Quin (South Tyne and Wear), Mr Winston Griffiths (South Wales), Mr Richard Balfie (London, South Inner), Mr Alfred Lomas (London, North-East), and Mr John Hume (Northern Ireland).

Justifying their action, Mr Boyes said defence had already been put on the agenda for this week's session. It allows for a debate on a report prepared by M. André Diligent (Christian Democrat, France) on the protection of the shipping supply routes to Europe.

"We are constantly being put in the position of having to react to right-wing moves," Mr Boyes said. "It is time we took the initiative, and the two million people who demonstrated recently in Europe against nuclear weapons want to see their views represented. We should choose the ground for debate, not the Christian Democrats and the Tories."

The left-wingers want the Parliament to debate a motion calling on the American and Soviet arms negotiators meeting in Geneva on November 30 to take into account the European mass protests, to reject the stationing of new Nato medium-range nuclear missiles on European soil, to seek the dismantling of similar missiles installed by the Soviet Union, to ban the deployment of neutron bombs, and to work for the gradual elimination of all nuclear weapons in Europe.

The declaration is also backed by Mrs Winifred Ewing, Scottish Nationalist MP for the Highlands and Islands.

Mrs Barbara Castle, leader of the socialist group, is not in Strasbourg this week. She injured her back gardening on Sunday.

Armenian terrorists bomb Paris railway station

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Nov 17

Armenian terrorists have struck again in France. Three days after their last bomb attack on a car park near the Eiffel Tower, which caused only material damage, an organisation calling itself the Only Group set off a device soon after 11 pm last night in a luggage locker of the Gare d'Est.

The station was filled at that time with national service-men returning from leave to their units in Germany, but only two people were slightly injured. The blast destroyed about 30 lockers and the plate glass windows in the main line section of the station.

The group issued an ultimatum to the French Government last week threatening reprisals against French diplomats abroad and French airlines if one of its members, arrested on Wednesday at Orly airport, who also belongs to the Armenian secret national liberation army (Asala), was not released.

In an anonymous message to the French press agency, it also insisted that the French Government acknowledge the genocide of one and a half million Armenians by the Turks in 1915.

M. Gaston Defferre, the Interior Minister, speaking in the National Assembly this morning, issued a solemn appeal to all Armenians in exile to "understand that the solution of their problems does not lie in terrorism." He called on the Armenian community to refuse to support all those "who use force, terrorism, and aggression."

Security measures at Orly airport have been reinforced since the end of last week.

The Armenian terrorist organizations, appear to have declared open hostilities on the French Government ever since the abortive attack on the Turkish consulate-general in Paris at the end of September, in which one person was killed and two others, including a Turkish consular official, were wounded.

The four men of the Armenian commando which staged the attack have been in prison since a series of bomb attacks in a cinema, a well-known restaurant, a local party headquarters, and a left-wing luggage locker of the Express Métro at the beginning of this month were intended to keep up the pressure for their release.

CAMPS 'STRAFED'

Islamabad, Nov 17 — Afghan helicopter gunships attacked three refugee camps inside Pakistan during the past 24 hours, wounding at least two Pakistani soldiers.

A ministry spokesman said four helicopters strafed the refugee camps which are about 100 miles west of Peshawar.

Long job to write new constitution Turkey takes slow road back to democracy

From Mario Modiano, Ankara, Nov 17

In Ankara's latest guessing game, few bets are taken on a timetable for the return of democracy, because most people agree that it will take the ruling generals a couple of years to set the stage for elections.

There are serious misgivings about the model of disciplined democracy that the military appear to have in mind, but few doubt they intend to honour their pledge to retreat to barracks once the task is accomplished.

The regime refuses to commit itself to a schedule, arguing that the anticipation would build up pressures for speed at the expense of substance and prudence.

Guesses, however, coincide in that it will take roughly one year to draft a new constitution and put it to the people by referendum, then another three to six months to produce the new laws on political parties and the electoral system. The new parties would be allowed six more months to prepare for the elections. This brings us to the autumn of 1983.

If previous regimes had given more time to the revisions of the constitution, perhaps we would not have needed the military intervention," said Professor Sadi İrmak, a former prime minister who is now president of the newly-appointed Consultative Assembly.

The 160-member assembly, which was given an advisory role in preparing the constitution and the laws, was opened on October 23. This was the only chronological commitment made so far by General Kenan Evren, the head of state. He kept it faithfully.

The assembly's task, according to Dr İrmak, will be to devise a constitutional model that should immunize Turkey against the crises that have plagued its parliamentary democracy before the military coup of September 12, 1980 — one, in fact, that would preclude the need for Army interventions in the future.

With some exceptions, the assembly consists of obscure, non-controversial Turks, mostly lawyers and retired civil servants or military, as well as some professionals and academics. Dr İrmak said they had been chosen by the generals from lists recommended by provincial governors (one-quarter of them directly by the ruling National Security Council) for their loyalty to the principles of Kemalism, the founder of modern Turkey.

Last week Dr İrmak, an affable septuagenarian, was rebuffed by assembly members for telling the press it would take two years to prepare the constitution. The draft is to be elaborated by a 15-member constitutional



Dr İrmak: No hurry.

president said. "Martial law will be terminated only when the country's security situation allows it. Besides, it does not interfere with the freedom of expression."

One week before opening the assembly, the regime disbanded the country's political parties which, after the coup, had had their activities suspended. This time their assets were also seized and their members barred from politics.

The regime's action was clearly designed to protect the new assembly from political influence and proclaim to the Turks at large that the old parties and their leaders were finished for good.

Yet critics of the regime saw the move as untimely, to say the least.

The new constitution and the laws on the political parties and electoral system will form one entity designed above all to eliminate the shortcomings of the democratic system.

General Evren outlined the formula when he inaugurated the assembly. He said: "Freedom cannot be limited." Dr İrmak added: "Human rights must be respected, but the state must be powerful, too."

What would happen if, beyond all expectations, the Turkish people rejected the draft constitution? Dr İrmak replied calmly: "We shall prepare another."

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PARLIAMENT November 17/1981

What Britain does in 41 hours takes Germany 21

EMPLOYMENT

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, faced during question time in the Commons the factors which were favourably affecting the unemployment situation.

Opposition MPs laughed at Mr Tebbit, asked about progress in measures to reduce unemployment, said: Manufacturing output has begun to recover, exports are doing well, substantial recent engineering and construction orders, strong retail sales and substantial profitability increases, alongside a fall in short-term working, a rise in overtime working and a rise in notified vacancies, suggest that gains in competitiveness are being exploited.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Lab), declared that interest rates had never been higher, bankruptcies and liquidations were never at such record levels, investment intentions were never more pessimistic and inflation was rising, all reasons for more unemployment.

Why will he (he asked) not tell the House the truth?

Mr Tebbit: Telling the House the truth goes down very well with the Government side but the Opposition always shout and yell and try to suppress it when we try to tell them the truth.

Interest rates are not at record levels. Mr Varley refers to record bankruptcies but chooses not to remember the rate of creation of new firms which also is at a record level. Why will Mr Varley not present a balanced picture instead of forever whining about how dismal everything is?

Mr Michael Latham (Melton, C): If there were to be forecasts within his department or the Manpower Services Commission showing a further significant increase in unemployment, does Mr Tebbit consider it is his first duty to ensure these forecasts are not achieved in practice and the trend soon becomes downward?

Mr Tebbit: Yes, of course. But the only way this trend will be moved downwards is when we gain markets we have lost and become more competitive than our rivals.

Mr Allen McKay (Penistone, Lab): If Mr Tebbit cannot confirm, or will not forecast, the level of unemployment, how does he expect the Chancellor of the Exchequer to set his budget right and get us out of a bigger mess than we are in now?

Mr Tebbit: These forecasts are a difficult matter. I recollect putting exactly that sort of point to Mr Albert Booth, who was then Secretary of State for Employment, on July 14, 1977. It is not possible to predict the trend of unemployment with any hope of accuracy.

Mr Mark Lennox-Boyd (Morecambe and Lunesdale, C): The suggestion that there is an easy solution to unemployment is a cruel deception to the millions unemployed. There is a growing awareness that the solution lies less

within the gift of Government than previously recognized.

Mr Tebbit: He is right. Although we are doing very well in a number of areas in industry these days, (Labour interruptions.) Yes, indeed. Recent orders for British Shipbuilders, orders in Brazil, orders for new motor cars, a mill in India, a power station for Hong Kong, are typical examples.

It is a cruel deception to suggest that whilst it takes 41 man hours to make a Ford Escort in Dagenham and 21 hours to make a Ford Escort in Saarlouis in Germany, with similar equipment, we can get out of the problems of unemployment by some slick and easy answer.

Mr Stanley Newsam (Harlow, Lab): The hope that he said exists in working overtime and things of that sort represents nothing whatsoever by way of hope to the vast majority of those people unemployed. Is there not a case for some further reflation or Government action?

Mr Tebbit: There is no case for any major further reflation. During 1979-81, unit labour costs in British industry rose twice as fast as in our principal competitors. The consequence of that could be a massive loss of jobs.

In the year 1980-81, we came down nearer to our competitors and this year the level is almost static. That is the only way in which we can regain our competitive position and re-create jobs.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool Walton, Lab): Mr Tebbit has shown the same sort of stupidity and ignorance in relation to the problems of unemployment as he showed when he attacked the workers of Liverpool in a speech at the Conservative Party conference.

Is it not time he began to learn some simple economics—that it is better to get people back to work than paying them enormous sums in unemployment benefit, as this Government is doing at the moment?

Mr Tebbit: In the past, Merseyside had a particularly poor strike record in comparison with the rest of the country. Between 1975 and 1978, Merseyside accounted for 10 per cent of the work days lost through industrial stoppages in the whole of the United Kingdom.

It is true, happily, things have improved very greatly since then and I hope they will continue to improve, in order that the people of Merseyside can get over that bad reputation which has done them so much damage.

Disorderly picketing deplored

Generally the code of practice on picketing was better observed but Mr David Waddington, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time that all too much risk of intimidation and vote rigging, he added.

The time has come (he went on) when the TUC should remove its role from the picketing of secret ballots. It is absurd and irresponsible when the TUC is asked to take money from cases where the code was not observed. He said the code made clear that pickets were not immune from the

provisions of the criminal law. If they act in a violent or disorderly manner (he went on) or by other means, seek to stop people going to work, those responsible may be committing criminal offences and lose any immunity they may have under the civil law.

His questioner, Mr John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge), said considerable alarm was caused by the strike pickets outside some BL works during the last strike when they were committing criminal offences and losing any immunity they may have under the civil law.

Mr Waddington: Disorderly picketing such as occurred at some BL plants is a matter for the criminal law. The law has never permitted pickets to use threats, or to obstruct or to act in a disorderly manner, or to obstruct the highway to prevent ordinary people exercising their right to get to work. Enforcement of the law is a matter for the police.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton West, C): During the recent one day strike at Vauxhall Motors at Luton, intimidation occurred and some of my constituents attempted to picket the handover. I am sure that their union cards would be torn up.

Mr Waddington: The code of practice gives guidance but it does not impose any rules. This question is primarily one for the criminal law and the police are responsible for enforcing that law.

Mr Kenneth Eastham (Manchester, Blackley, Lab): There is continuous vilification from Conservative MPs about strikers. Would he comment on the fact that we know exist in some of our cities, such as Manchester, where an employer used a law flying machine to drop a large quantity of property in great danger. Should there not be a code of practice for some employers?

Mr Waddington: If a man decides to use a helicopter rather than a horse and cart to remove his own goods, provided he does not break the law of the land, he is perfectly entitled to do so.

TUC should remove its absurd boycott

The Government takes the view that strike decisions should not be taken at huge outdoor meetings, Mr David Waddington, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, said during question time. That all too much risk of intimidation and vote rigging, he added.

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Bigger cages for battery hens

ANIMAL WELFARE

The British Government supported more generous cage sizes for battery hens and an earlier implementation date than proposed by the EEC Commission, Miss Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said opening a debate on Community proposals on battery hens.

In moving a motion taking note of the EEC proposals for minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages and supporting the Government's intention to agree a new agreement to arrangements which would enhance conditions and strengthen controls in the Community, she accepted an Opposition amendment that the proposed minimum standards for 1995 for implementing 'improvements' was incompatible with the demands of those interested in animal welfare and the views of the House.

She said the EEC directive proposed minimum cage sizes for battery laying hens of at least 500 square centimetres of unrestricted floor space, with additional minimum standards of feeding and watering equipment, cage height, floor type and slope.

The directive required member states to ensure inspections to verify the requirements of the directive. The Commission would continue its studies on the welfare of laying hens and report to the Council of Ministers with proposals.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth (C) said the committee had found a degree of complacency which was almost indescribable. Licensing of all people involved in the disposal of hazardous waste was necessary.

Viscount Ridley (C) said he welcomed the report on behalf of the Association of County Councils but the Government's proposal was an extra expense this involved. It was no good imposing further duties on local authorities and then complaining that they were overworked and unable to manage their affairs.

The Earl of Avon, Lord in Waiting, said more than £2m had been spent by the Department of the Environment on landfill research and the programme was planned to continue at about £500,000 a year.

A Department of Environment examination of the need for new controls in the importation of waste was nearing completion and its results would be announced shortly. The Government accepted the principle of a stronger central advisory function to support local authorities in their duty of control, suggested by the Select Committee.

Licensing would represent a significant additional element of control. The Government would mean an extra burden on public funds to administer, plus additional costs for the private sector to comply with the new provisions. The Government was not announcing a conclusion until there had been consultations.

He knew that the absence in the Bill of proposals for privatization would disappoint many Conservative MPs.

He can assure them (he said) that it is the Government's aim, this permitting, to take powers this Parliament to facilitate private industry in the British Shipbuilding industry.

The overall financial record of BS since nationalization had been disappointing, but the recent figures demonstrated a large improvement. Part of this recent improvement was related to improvements in the world market. But a large part of the improvement was due to BS's own efforts and the benefit of restructuring.

A major factor had been the commercial approach under the BS chairman, Mr Addison, who had taken over the job 15 months ago. Trade unions had also contributed to the improvements. Thousands of employees had left BS at a cost of £55m under the redundancy payments scheme.

On the present trend of orders he expected BS to be able to make a further improvement in financial performance. But there were formidable problems ahead. BS was still a long way from viability. The Government was still approaching £500m per year of work. The Government's production was still improving the level of work was still worrying.

The corporation was now making a steady effort to improve productivity. Each yard had a detailed programme to meet and had set themselves targets of 5 per cent improvement in productivity and 10 per cent next year. An increase in productivity was essential for the industry to be competitive and its future.

The behaviour of the market and prices available would be greatly influenced by the actions of Japan, and so far developments

sals, if appropriate, before January 1984.

Member states would have to bring into force legislation to implement the directive by July 1, 1983, and member states would apply from that date to all cages used for the first time and to all cages from July 1, 1985.

The industry was concerned that it would have to meet the substantial cost of implementing the directive, and said that scientific evidence pointed to floor space of 450 cm per bird at that stage, and at a second stage, after a reasonable transitional period, more generous space allowance and other minimum cage design standards.

We are not only seeking (she said) a report of 800 cm per bird, but we want it to apply from a date earlier than 1985. We are also insisting that there must be a reasonable provision for Community monitoring of the inspection arrangements in all member states.

The Government expected the Council of Ministers to agree to the directive in the near future. It was a first step to remove the worst of these conditions.

Mr Mark Hughes, an Opposition spokesman on agriculture (Durham, Lab), moving the amendment, said the area of the dispatch box in front of him was approximately 2,100 sq cm.

At the moment (he said) within the confines of this dispatch box, seven live out their miserable lives. By 1985, out of our kindness, we reduce that number to four. That is a position I am appalled to recommend to this House.

The normal Parliamentary order paper was marginally larger than the amount of floor space allowed for a battery hen to live its life out.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, Scot Nat) said the battery system should be banned as deplorable cruel.

Mr Peter Mills (West Devon, C) said they must strike a balance between the welfare of the farming side. Intensive production was repugnant to some people, but he had been alarmed at a young man he had seen in the facility exposed to wind and rain, scratching for what they wanted, and experiencing the danger of foxes.

Mr Mills said the Select Committee on Agriculture had not been able to ascertain if there were enough hens to live in the welfare of these birds.

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake, C) said she hoped that if they could get the proposals as a minor step forward, they would not be deflected from the essential objective of finding suitable alternatives in the way it did not so radically alter the natural behaviour of hens.

The motion as amended, was agreed to.

BS improving its performance

SHIPBUILDING

The Shipbuilding Bill 1981 proposed raising the borrowing limit for British Shipbuilders and its subsidiaries, and extending a guarantee for the industry within the industry, Mr Norman Lamont, Minister of State for Industry, said when moving the Bill.

He said the present borrowing limit for BS under the Shipbuilding Act, 1979, was £500m, which could be raised, subject to the approval of MPs, to £600m. Under the Bill the limit on borrowing was raised to £700m with provision for a further increase to £800m, subject to approval from MPs.

The Bill's second purpose was to prolong the shipbuilding restructure period to 1985, from 1984, for Great Britain and Northern Ireland for two years beyond June, 1983. The reason for this was the forecast of a sharp decline in shipbuilding orders in the world market.

The Bill also provided for job opportunities in surface warship building would inevitably decline as compared with current levels.

He knew that the absence in the Bill of proposals for privatization would disappoint many Conservative MPs.

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The corporation was now making a steady effort to improve productivity. Each yard had a detailed programme to meet and had set themselves targets of 5 per cent improvement in productivity and 10 per cent next year. An increase in productivity was essential for the industry to be competitive and its future.

The behaviour of the market and prices available would be greatly influenced by the actions of Japan, and so far developments

were disappointing. Although the market recovery had been modest, Japan had increased its share of new orders. Britain and other EEC countries had made known their deep concern at the trend of Japanese orders.

The Government were still studying the BS's corporate plan, in the light of the defence review. The plan was an ambitious one showing what conditions would have to be achieved if merchant shipbuilding by the end of the planned period of 1985 was to be near break-even without intervention fund subsidy.

Because of the size of the problem, indicated by the fact that the merchant shipbuilding division of BS lost £43m in 1980-81 after credit intervention fund assistance of £4m, the Government would without subsidies, there would have to be a turn round of some £7m per annum.

Because of the size of the gap, continued support from the taxpayer would be needed if the

competitors? The Government ought to be ensuring that public money was not wasted, placed orders in British yards.

There was no evidence either to suppose that if the Government were to withdraw support progressively from the industry, people in the Far East would follow suit. The British shipbuilding industry was likely to be the further disadvantage of our merchant shipbuilding yards.

The Government should take a leaf out of the book of the United States. If the British Government were to withdraw support progressively from the industry, people in the Far East would follow suit. The British shipbuilding industry was likely to be the further disadvantage of our merchant shipbuilding yards.

There was a strong case for relaxing the financial limits and allowing British Shipbuilders to invest more.

Mr James Hill (Southampton, Test, C) said not all the assistance should go to the North. It should be spread throughout the industry, securing further warship orders throughout the world as these could be the most profitable part of British Shipbuilding.

Mr Robert MacTaggart (Glasgow, Lab) said now was the time for more borrowing to encourage British Shipbuilders to set up new yards and take on apprentices for training.

The Times profile: a second spring for Robert Bolt

The long struggle to get the words out

There is a five-minute delay, punctuated by the frenzied sounds of dogs within, before the burly, bearded figure, clad in tracksuit, tennis shoes and voluminous old jersey, answers the doorbell and awkwardly proffers his left hand, apologizing for the enforced wait on the doorstep.

Robert Bolt walks and talks slowly, deliberately, and with more than a hint of difficulty, as he leads the way to a fireside chair. Two and a half years ago a screenwriting career of great distinction which has encompassed *A Man For All Seasons*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Dr Zhivago* and *Ryan's Daughter* was brought to an abrupt halt by the near-fatal stroke which left Bolt paralyzed down his right side and robbed him of the power of speech.

Recovery has been painfully slow. His right side remains paralyzed, his speech has returned and continues to improve. But the most significant milestone along Bolt's struggling uphill path back to a normal life is that he has regained the ability and the confidence to resume writing.

He is at work on a screenplay for David Puttnam and Hugh Hudson, producer and director of that rare British success, *Chariots of Fire*, pecking left-handed at the typewriter and taking long rests in the middle of the day.

"A year ago I would not have dreamed of doing what I am doing now. It is only seven months ago that I dared pick up a pen. I find it difficult to get back to the job. I stumble over the simplest words, sometimes it takes me five minutes to remember the simplest word like 'book'. But I am improving all the time, and the extra effort means that my writing is much more economical. I throw fewer sheets of paper into the waste bin than I used to do."

One word which causes him no difficulty is the word least suitable for reproduction in a family newspaper, which he employs liberally and forcibly whenever an idea or phrase gets momentarily stuck on its journey from brain to tongue.

Partial disability is a heavy cross to bear for a man of Bolt's energy, but he has patiently not allowed it to crush his spirit, which fights like a caged tiger to escape from the bars of physical handicap. His earlier life was tempestuous, even rather scandalous at times, and David Lean, the film director for whom he wrote three dazzling scripts, described him to me as "the most articulate man I have ever met".

It is different now. "One thing people do not realize about the disabled; there is a strong feeling in here [and here he points to his

head] of having had enough, of defeatism. You can tell the moment it hits you, and you have to get up and go out." Bolt is fortunate; he is able to drive a specially adapted car.

Apart from the skill of Californian surgeons who performed an emergency heart operation on him in 1979, Bolt owes his gradual recovery more than anything to the loving ministrations of his son, a television director, who brought him home to London, and Ann, former wife of the Marquess of Queensberry, whom he had known as a friend for 17 years and who had a home ready for him to come back to. Eighteen months ago he made Ann his third wife.

One of Bolt's close friends of many years' standing remarked to me: "Thank God Robert has found a mature and sensible partner at last. There have been too many silly women in his life."

Now aged 56, Bolt has gingerly picked up the threads of his creative career with a nostalgic return visit to the beliefs he held as a young man, when he briefly joined the Communist Party in his native Manchester.

'Still better to be red than dead'

The story, which he is adapting from a novel, is set in present-day Bulgaria, and concerns a champion cyclist, a popular hero, who defects to capitalist Greece, as soon as he gets there he realizes it is not for him, and he returns to Bulgaria with sinking heart. It is the second time that Bolt has taken his old beliefs out of the cupboard, dusted them down, and tried them on for size; they are still not a perfect fit, but they are better than they were.

"When I wrote *State of Revolution* for the National Theatre in 1977, my purpose was to show that Lenin had created a monster he could not control — Stalin. Compared to Stalin, Hitler was a rank amateur."

"Since then I have moved a little. I am just a little bit more in favour of the revolution in the east than I was. I used to think I do not think so, although I still believe it is horrible to live under a communist dictatorship."

"But I still think it would be better to be red than dead. It is absolutely fantastic that we live on this little planet, one half capitalist and the other communist, and we play this ridiculous game of 'If only we could get rid of each other. It's cuckoo. I think we have only 50 years at most

before we alter our ways or blow ourselves up."

He has, he says, nothing particular left to say in his writing on the subject of politics, except: "For God's Sake let us do something."

Yet Bolt has always been a deeply political writer, in the broad sense; there is no more political figure than the man for all seasons, Sir Thomas More. His style has always been the political play, but with the focus of attention riveted upon the hero.

"I am fed up with seeing plays about villains. I think it is time we turned to examining heroes — for their faults as well as their qualities."

It was just such an attempt to weave the white mantle of heroism around the shoulders of a man previously regarded as a thoroughlygoing baddie, that sucked Robert Bolt into the maw of epic disaster and drove him to the overwork that immediately preceded his sudden and crippling fall from demonic energy to the intensive care unit of a Los Angeles hospital. It is a sorry and convoluted tale, but it carries the curiously comforting message that Hollywood is still capable of courting calamity on a grand scale.

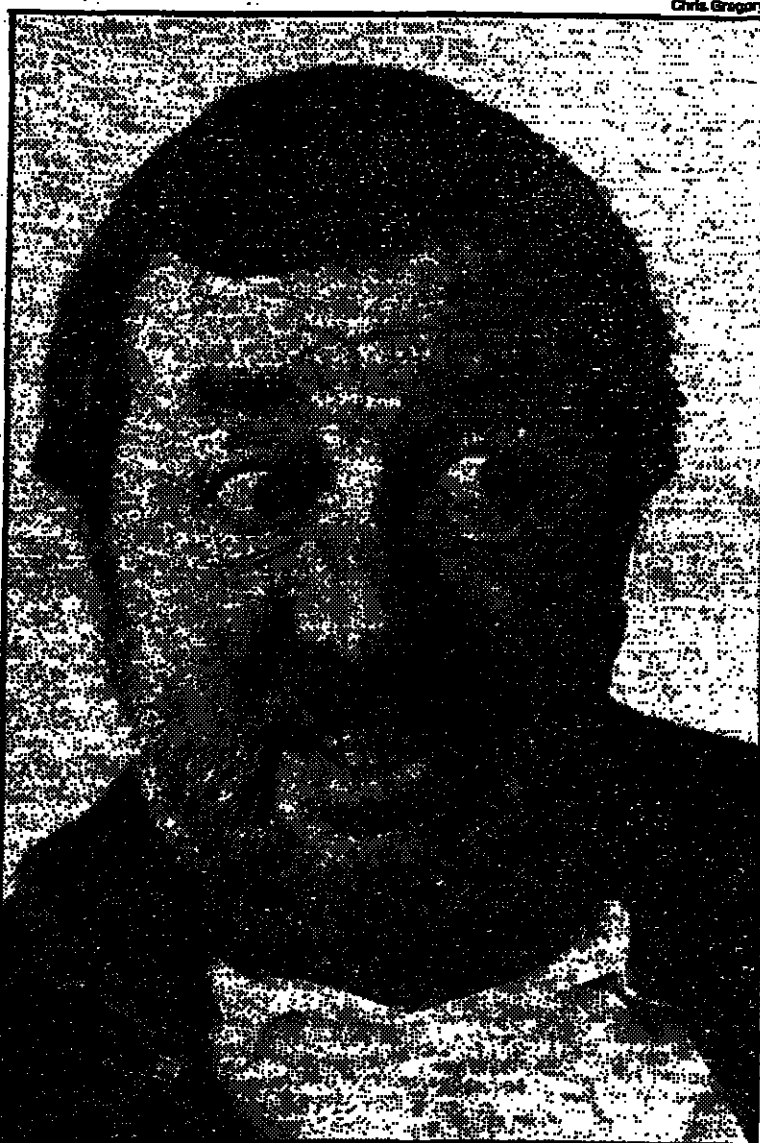
The villain, or hero, of the piece in Captain William Bligh, master of His Majesty's Ship *Bounty*, a man who has not exactly escaped the attentions of the cinema.

Charles Laughton moulded our perception with his 1935 portrayal of Bligh the Bully, a high-camp performance of such overbearing power that it is easy to forget that Fletcher Christian, the supposed hero, was in the hands of no less a screen god than Clark Gable. In the 1962 version, which again leaned towards Bligh the Baddie (Trevor Howard this time) at least we remember the mumbly tactician of Marlon Brando as Christian.

David Lean, the distinguished British-born director who last turned a camera in 1969 to make *Ryan's Daughter*, saw Bligh quite differently. In 1978 he bought the rights to a new book by Richard Hough which re-examined Bligh's reputation as the presented him, rather than Christian, as the real hero.

Lean, a remarkably well-preserved man who looks 53 but is in fact 73 and lives a strange globetrotting life in a variety of luxurious hotels, agreed to talk on condition that my rendezvous with him remained secret. "Bligh was not a villain; he flogged less than Captain Cook", he declared.

He confessed that he was seized with the idea of a major epic on Bligh, and he turned immediately to Robert Bolt to write it.



Robert Bolt: picking up the threads

"Bolt is brilliant. I hired him first for *Lawrence of Arabia* because I had seen his stage version of *A Man For All Seasons*. I wanted an Englishman to write *Lawrence*, and I wanted a classical, almost Biblical, approach. I still think *Lawrence* is the best script Robert ever wrote."

Lean's soaring imagination visualized two films, one of the mutiny, and one of the subsequent events on Pitcairn Island, to which Bligh and his officers were banished.

The Hollywood producer Dino de Laurentis was persuaded to bite, despite an estimate of £40m to complete the project. Lean and Bolt went off to Tahiti to write the script, encouraged by de Laurentis who had recently been there making *Hurricane* with Mia Farrow. Cynics in the industry (and there is no shortage of them) say that the quarters built by de Laurentis to house cast and crew, and now sold off to a tourist hotel operator, are considerably more of a financial success than the film itself.

Bolt spent a total of 17 months in Tahiti struggling with the script. Whether it was necessary for Bolt to be on location all that time, or whether he found it convenient to be out of Britain for more than a year to avoid the clutches of the Inland Revenue, depends on whom one talks to. But there is no doubt that problems arose.

Bolt himself told me: "David Lean is very difficult to work with, yet at the same time he has tremendous boyish enthusiasm. He is terribly generous, often in ways that no one knows anything about. But he can be infuriating; he can tell you a scene is not right, but he cannot tell you why."

Another writer who has worked with Lean told me: "If you work with Lean, you live with Lean. It's breakfast, lunch, dinner with Lean. He is kind, generous, considerate to a fault, but you can never get away from him. He possesses you."

Bolt admits that he was working anything between ten and 24

hours a day on the Bligh script, and always in the background was the unanswered question of whether the two films would ever be made. The whole deal, according to film industry sources, was put together by an agent, and lacked the security of being backed by one major studio.

Meanwhile de Laurentis ordered construction of a splendid replica of the *Bounty*, and approached Anthony Hopkins as a possible Bligh, the two having a slight physical resemblance (or, more accurately, Hopkins being able to put up a passable impression of Laughton). Hopkins has gone on to other and surer things; the vessel is still riding at anchor, crewless and friendless, in New Zealand where it was built.

But it gradually became clear that de Laurentis was less than happy with the way things were going. The writing was taking like forever, baby, and the clouds of doubt were gathering ominously back in Hollywood about whether backing the ageing Lean on such a grandiose and self-indulgent project was really the best way to employ increasingly scarce dollars. To remake *Bounty* only 17 years after the Brando version was chancy enough, but to commit a whacking pile of greenbacks to *Son of Bowery* at the same time was asking a very great deal.

To be fair, de Laurentis did not back out of the project; he did own it after all. But he did look around for somewhere to lay off his gigantic bet, and found Sam Spiegel.

Then suddenly, while back in California for one of those interminable conferences about money, Robert Bolt was struck down by a stroke, and nearly died. He had completed the script of the first film, and was one-third of the way through the second.

"It was a tragedy," Lean told me. "Robert's script was excellent."

Lean, say other writers who have worked with him, is hell, but they may say that because they are lesser men. It will surprise a whole day agonizing over the simplest of scenes with one line of dialogue, such as "Permission to go ashore, sir?" He drives writers to despair. Lean himself denies any such thing. "I like to get things as good as I can. Seventeen months was not an excessive time for the writing of two films."

"And I might remind you that I had *Zhivago* on the screen in New York in two months under a year from the start of shooting."

Bolt's illness helped to throw the whole *Bounty* project into confusion. Lean, anxious to have his scripts completed to fend off any total loss of confidence in the project from the Hollywood money moguls, hired the British writer Melvyn Bragg to complete the work, driving him close to despair in a room at the Berkeley Hotel.

By this time Dino de Laurentis was expressing grave doubts

about Lean's whole project. Sam Spiegel had been brought in to beef up the financial backing, but the rot of dissent had already set in. Lean did not like Melvyn Bragg's work on the script; Spiegel did not like Lean's, and walked out. The whole sorry scheme collapsed.

Lean still defends Robert Bolt's screenplay as masterly, but Hollywood producers appear to have lost some of their former confidence in David Lean; his scheme appears to have been too grandiose even for them, and it is a long time since he made a picture.

Melvyn Bragg, who got more money than satisfaction out of his brief but torrid affair with Lean, sees the problem as a clash of dinosaurs. "Spiegel and de Laurentis are very old and very rich men, constantly assessing each other's wealth."

David Lean's involvement in the project he created appears to have ended. He told me, with the nearest to sourness that such a consummate and anachronistic English gentleman could ever muster: "We had the misfortune to have Dino de Laurentis on it."

But the monster refuses to lie down and die. Bolt confirmed to me last week that he had had a fresh approach from the de Laurentis company, asking if he could shorten the Bligh script into one film of reasonable rather than excessive length.

The strong pull of the theatre

Bolt is uncertain about whether he can do it; it is, after all, like asking Rembrandt to repaint *The Night Watch*, but a bit smaller. "Lean was satisfied with my original; it was, he said, the screenplay he most wanted to make. I am not sure whether it can be shortened; I am thinking about it."

He is probably enough of a hack, in the best sense of that word, to do it once sufficient confidence in his own abilities has returned. He says he finds screen writing easier than writing for the stage. His real desire is to write again for the theatre, but he does not yet feel capable.

"I don't dare risk it yet. There is too much responsibility for an author; I have always believed a stage play to be the most important thing a man can write."

What his current employers, Puttnam and Hudson, will think of his Bulgarian screenplay, he has no idea. "It is very, very difficult to know whether, after they say to your face, 'Excellent, very good', they go away and say to each other, 'Good God, he's lost the knack'."

Robert Bolt wishes it to be known that he does not much care what they say about it; he is thankful enough to be alive.

Alan Hamilton

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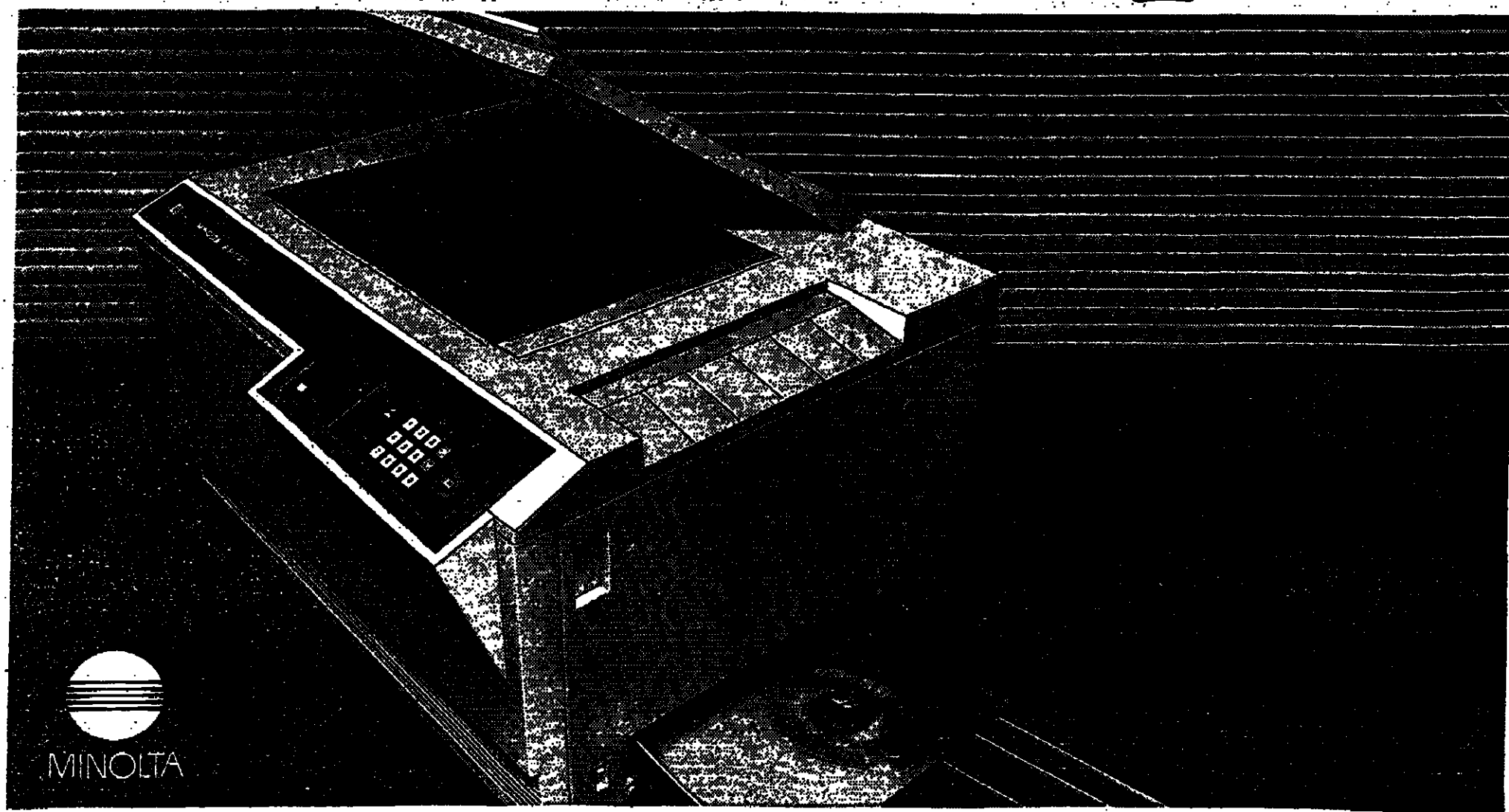
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Neither my rather heavy

The police force in Washington has been greatly improved in recent years, in a determined effort to alter the city's reputation as "the crime capital of the world". The police in the 1960s were

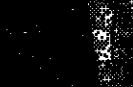
The conservative mood today does, at many of its ringings, and even to some extent at its core, have strong racist undertones. But who has incited this mood, except the Supreme Court and the

There is an inverted racism
the liberal. It is a racism
which expects that blacks will
commit crimes, that blacks do
not want black or white
animals to be arrested, and
even that black children
must not be asked to obey their
teachers at school. It is not
only white rednecks, it is not
only black police, who feel let
down by liberal permissiveness.

ere is appallingly high. It has always been much higher among blacks than among whites. In the past few years, and especially in the last year, this gap has widened. In a city in which the population is about 70 per cent black, probably 70 per cent of the black young people are unemployed. They are taken through

The problem exists all over Western democracies now. Capitalism cannot employ its young people. It educates most of them to a future of drugs, and the need quickly to find the money for a fix.

way of life and my moral values will not be asked back. I don't think that my behaviour in your house was particularly anti-social. Indeed, set against the virulence of the critics of government, we shelter under our own roof, I would have thought that my conduct was generous. A number of earnest discussions over cups of coffee, followed by an article of a few thousand words written in a tone which would have been



Tom Stoppard: drinking coffee and talking to Chartists

She is, however, on record also as criticizing independent schools' charitable status. She exploits the confusion over the general and the legal meaning of "charitable". In ordinary usage we all know that "charitable" means "giving to the poor", but for three centuries the legal definition has included, in addition to the relief of poverty, the advancement of education and religion. In fact, when the words of the Goodman Committee's far-reaching examination of Charity Law, "is widely regarded as one of the main foundations on which civilized life depends" it is not the most important advancement of education were to lose its charitable status.

Institutions such as schools or hospitals that are charitable are not allowed to make profits. Surplus income, if any, has to be ploughed back or the benefit of the institution. If charitable status were removed, or indeed if the effect of the decision of independent schools, those who would lose out would be the pupils with free or

subsidized places. For the charitably would no longer be able to pay their fees. It is precisely those schools that help the poor most, such as Christ's Hospital, Lord Wandsworth College, or the City School, London, that would lose most by the loss of charitable status. Even at present, where more than 80 per cent are given a free or heavily subsidized education for five years each and then the 100 or so heretofore substantial bursars, that would no longer be afforded. Surely what SDP legislation would thus effect would be the opposite of what social democrats want. For it would strip the schools more and more of their bursars, so as to be able to offer places to those who cannot afford the fees. As the Goodman Committee concluded, whether education should be abolished or not is a political question and should not be complicated indirectly by the removal of charitable status.

Mrs. Williams also attacks independent schools because their alumni have long dominated politics, the

the Service, and the ancient universities. She has urged the nation to be aware of the social revolution that took place immediately after the 1939-45 war, when entry to universities became widely available to the nation's young. The universities have been a link through our country. So all of those now in top positions such as ambassadors, bishops, judges, and heads of industry, were at school before the war, before the social revolution. To take one example, only 4 per cent of senior civil servants in 1949 were ex-public school; 19 were in the administrative class of the Home Office in 1949-50; 22 per cent in 1959-60; 33 per cent in 1978-80 this had doubled still further to 22 per cent. It is university education, not schooling that is the basis for admission to the rest of the civil service today. The social class has also affected the domestic Service, if perhaps not less dramatically. As P. Bauer put it in *Equality, Inequality and Social Desecration*, 'Britain is a but not a closed society.

British class distinctions indeed exist, but they are not, and rarely have been, significant barriers to social and economic mobility." The officers of the present and last years' "Officers' and Officers' Grade brothers and one woman went to public schools, illustrate this view.

As for *causing* social divisions, with which Mrs Williams charges the independent schools, each observer will tell you what he wishes to see, for the schools clearly mirror the country's class structure. One is likely to think his own one is ugly, if Mr Williams seriously supposes that the extermination of public schools will remove divisions between the classes. He misunderstands disastrously the nature of societies. There is a social structure in all advanced societies because it answers to man's social needs. If one could abolish it, the world would become the group that claim to be the most advanced, and would displace its constituent elements, another takes its place, as has happened in Russia since 1917. In saying that the schools are the cause of social evils, independent

country to-day, but simply to deny that any social barrier through schooling will not work. Most of such research evidence as there is on social mix in community comprehensive schools does not suggest that putting children of different social backgrounds together does much to produce social interaction.

The SDP's laudable purpose of reducing social segregation would be achieved much more effectively by establishing a national community service for all, the service being for one year between the ages of 16 and 25, where young adults from all walks of life would live and work side by side.

But it is at least known that it is their party line on education. The public schools use, of course, only a small part of the whole, but at present all is fog.

Michael McCrum
The author was formerly Master of Ston and is now Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

The Times (Newspaper)

to enter your country if you don't want me. th- So this letter is not to register a complaint, merely a disappointment. I have made only one point: visitors who are anti-social intentions are to give token and pathetic moral support by drinking a coffee and conversing with a handful of Christs-is not welcome.

I thought I have left matters there. I had a sense of frustration. The occupational prejudice of playwrights is, that things only move forward through dialogue. I also retain, my faith, which may be an occupational naivety, in professional discussion. So on July 21 1981, I committed the naive act of writing to Dr Nemeš, Minister of Justice for the Czechoslovak Republic, to request that he would perhaps my visa application form, reduced to essential facts, carried with it an implication that I wished to return around Prague making all the necessary arrangements. I asked Dr Nemeš that if someone would intercede on my behalf in this matter of a visa I would come to Prague, if

bureaucratic prudence. Perhaps it is not the endless silence which follows the last line of a dialogue but merely a pause, very long, pause, would still like to return to Prague, and this desire has become an end in itself, independent of any reason for going. Whether I go purely as a tourist for another look at the city, or whether I go to shake the hands of a few people who have fallen from grace and to reaffirm, uselessly, that they have not been entirely forgotten, and ignored, or whether I go to save my bourgeois moral scruples, contrary to everyone in authority, the idea of going back, and the sense of frustration, remain with me. I have had no luck with official channels. Perhaps I'll have my last, desperate attempt; hereafter, therefore, my final application for a visa to visit the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Yours etc.
Tom Stoppard

TOMSTOPPARD
Tomorrow: Kurt Vonnegut writes to the chairman of the school board which declared that his novel, *Slaughterhouse*


The field apparently includes four holders of university chairs and, predictably, the cream of home-grown literary journalism. Leading "inside" names include Claire Tomalin, agent for the rights of the late Virginia Woolf, and the editor of the *Spectator*, John Brock. 51, deputy editor of the *TLS*, and Peter Ackroyd, joint managing editor and film critic of the *Spectator*. Mrs Tomalin, widow of the writer Nicholas, novelist and biographer of the Royal Society of Literature, has published two books, *The Life and Death of Mary Wollstonecraft* and *Shelley and His World*. Yesterday she told me "Anybody in the literary world who is interested in me and I have a wonderful job here and if the job were offered to me it would be a very difficult decision to make. The *Sunday Times* reaches one and a half million people and we have a great influence on the general reading public. The *TLS* is the

Art show
I may not know much about art, but I know that I like Roy Lichtenstein, the dealer who specializes in nineteenth-century English paintings. You cannot fail to visit the gallery his "shop" he launches his exhibitions fresh lobster and vintage

was the man, you remember who mounted an exhibition of Gainsboroughs at the Emir of Kuwait's palace, only to be asked how long it would take to find the time to paint his latest show, *Paintings of the 19th Century*, at his gallery in London. I said, last night, to him, nothing but the ordinary. They are mainly 19th-century, and have all been exhibited at either the Salon de l'Academy or the Paris Salon. 50 or so pictures took Miles years to collect, are all for £250 to £50,000 and have cost him a fortune of £2m.

Last night Sir Hugh Casson, Robert Carrier seemed particularly taken with "The Peasants" by Gainsborough.

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respects to one of the most innovative British houses. The solemn occasion is the appearance of the last book ever to bear the imprint of the Nonesuch Press, a company which revolutionized book design, typography and production from 1923 until the death of its founder, Francis Meynell, six years ago. It produced its finest work — including treasured editions of Dante, Blake and Shakes-

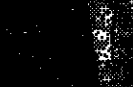
pears — at a time when top-quality printing materials were always available — than they are today, but the improvements that it made in the way books look and feel has irreversibly influenced the output of most publishers.

The last Nonesuch book is, fittingly, a history of the Press and represents a culmination of its work, including the last issue. This history is coming out in a limited edition of 950 copies at £115 each, but is expected to sell out within days. Nonesuch books, it appears, are appreciated for more than just their looks. Copies of the Dante book, for example published in 1928 for £5 15s 6d, now fetch anything upwards of £500 apiece.

The unscheduled hanging of an expressionist oil painting in the Matisse Room at the Tate has enraged gallery staff. I am told that Paul Douglas, a struggling London artist, marched into the gallery the other day with "Escape" (his painting of a baller dancer) under his coat, found a gap on the wall with a hook in it, and attached his masterpiece. Unhappily the work fell off the

Edwin Coven, whose election to Alderman in the City of London has twice been blocked by the autocratic Court of Aldermen

way of life and my moral values will not be asked back. I don't think that my behaviour in your house was particularly anti-social. Indeed, set against the virulence of the critics of government, we shelter under our own roof, I would have thought that my conduct was generous. A number of earnest discussions over cups of coffee, followed by an article of a few thousand words written in a tone which would have been



Tom Stoppard: drinking coffee and talking to Chartists

bureaucratic prudence. Perhaps it is not the endless repetition of the same line of a dialogue, but merely a pause, a very long pause. I would still like to return to Prague, and this desire has become an end in itself. I would like to go on for going. Whether I go purely as a tourist for another look at the castle, whether I go to shake the hands of a few people who have fallen from the scene, or whether I go senselessly, that they have not been entirely forgotten and ignored, or whether I go to have my bourgeois moral compass corrected by someone in authority, is of no going-back, and the sense of frustration, remain with me. I have had no luck with official permission. Perhaps I have more luck with a sideways attempt: herewith, therefore, my final application for a visa to visit the Czechoslovak

Yours etc.
Tom Stoppard

Tomorrow: Kurt Vonnegut writes to the chairman of the school board which declared that his novel, *Slaughterhouse*

Alastair Milne, managing director of BBC Television, emerged last night in favour for the £40,000-a-year post of general manager. As nominations for the job closed the name of Sir Robin Day, one of his chief rivals, disappeared from the list. Sir Robin, I am told, considers his on-screen appearances too valuable to the corporation to leave; he has made a nomination for the post, which he is expected to disclose.

The new director-general will be announced in the New Year to replace Sir Ian Trethowan, who retires next October after five years in the job. Others fancied to take over include Alastair Burnet, the ITN newscaster who was once editor of the *Daily Express* and *The Economist*; Brian Wenham, controller of BBC 2; and Paul Fox, managing director of Yorkshire Television and a former BBC 1 controller.

The director-generalship seems certain to go to an insider yet again. The last outsider was Sir William Haley in 1944. Mr Haley, who has been, quite a directorship of Reuters to take the job, he left in 1952 to take over a much more important position of editor of *The Times*.

Peter Watson



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

END OF THE ROBBINS ERA

Today the Commons debates an Opposition motion on the Government's policy towards higher education. The Association of University Teachers is laying on a crowd scene for the occasion, though MPs can hardly be in doubt about the serious disquiet in the universities about the funds being made available and their allocation by the University Grants Committee.

There are various ways of estimating the size of the cuts which now face the universities over the next two years. The UGC reckons that it will be of the order of 11 per cent in real terms. The accuracy of this type of forecast depends on the accuracy of forward estimates of inflation. Account must also be taken of the effects of the earlier cuts associated with the sharp increases in overseas student fees. The Vice-Chancellors Committee talks in terms of a real cut of about 15 per cent in all.

Cuts of this order would be extremely difficult to achieve within the time available even if they were spread evenly across the 45 universities. But rightly, the UGC has sought to discriminate — against the arts and social sciences and in favour of science and technology, in favour of quality at the expense of mediocrity. In so doing it has divided the universities among themselves. A favoured group which includes Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Glasgow, has been cut by 5 per cent or less. At the other extreme, Salford stands to lose more than a quarter of its grant, and Aston and Bradford a fifth.

There seems no reason to doubt the vice-chancellors when they say that few universities will be able to achieve the cuts which are now being required without making a number of university teachers redundant — a process which takes them into a legal minefield, complicated by the variety of university charters and contracts of employment. Not surprisingly, the Government

have shown no interest in a redundancy scheme (costed at around £180 million) worked out by the Vice-Chancellors committee, based on the redundancy terms for mobile civil servants. Both groups have traditionally been able to expect security of tenure during good behaviour. It may be that university teachers have a better legal claim to such tenure. But the justification for tenure in the case of doctis is not job protection in the face of economies, but protection against discriminatory dismissal for unpopular views. In an economic blizzard they have no moral claim to exceptional compensation not available to their colleagues in polytechnics or schools. An equitable redundancy scheme should suffice and the government must be ready to fund it.

Nothing the Government has done so far, and nothing that Sir Keith Joseph had to say to a select committee of the House of Commons last week, suggests that there is any considered policy for the universities or for higher education as a whole apart from an imperative to cut expenditure. The size and shape of that sector of education is to be the unplanned product of a budget-cutting exercise. Even lip service is no longer paid to the Robbins consensus, witness the ignominious scene in last week's select committee where neither the minister nor his inquisitors could remember precisely what the famous Robbins principle was ("courses of higher education should be available for all those qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so"). The principle was not dead, said Sir Keith, once it had been recovered for inspection, just being "redefined by what is going on now".

Sir Keith is inclined to favour a smaller university sector, presumably more academic in its purposes and shorn of some of its dubious excrescences both of research and undergraduate courses.

There is a lot to be said for that. But it is perverse to entertain that view and simultaneously to cut the size of the non-university sector of higher education and apply similarly rigid economies to technical and vocational education below degree standard.

The economies demanded of the universities in a period of three years, now effectively that time small "massive disruption of the teaching and research", according to the vice-chancellors' committee. The UGC, discreetly, agrees. They ask for an extension to make cuts of the same order over five years. Sir Keith Joseph concedes only that "in very limited areas indeed there may be something called damage". The probability is that if the universities managed the adjustment well (and the scope for efficiency savings in many academic pastures is far from being exhausted), the damage would turn out to be not quite as great as the universities claim and considerably more than Sir Keith allows.

Universities are organic and democratic institutions and their necessary virtues place a limit on the benefits to be achieved by methods of business efficiency. The minister would enhance his reputation as a reflective politician if he were to indicate today that his mind is not closed to the pleas of the universities to be given more time to effect the cuts he requires; and that he is prepared to reexamine their claim that the net savings over a five-year period would be little if any less than over a three-year period, a calculation that depends on the figure put on liability for redundancy payments. If the universities were given that extra time they would be able for their part (and in their words) to avoid "the inevitable reduction in the number of highly qualified young men and women whose education and expertise in the competitive world of today and tomorrow the country so desperately needs".

The Civil Service Department

From Lord Crowther-Hunt
Sir, As a member of the Fulton Committee I should like to make two comments on Peter Jay's letter (November 16). His suggestion that we recommended the creation of the Civil Service Department because "Harold Wilson told us to" will, I imagine, come as a surprise to most of my colleagues on the committee. If any such "command" was given to Lord Fulton, it was certainly never communicated to the committee. In fact, as I recall, the original thrust for the creation of the Civil Service Department came from one of the Civil Service members of the committee. And most of us were convinced of the need for this change because, as we said in our report, the Treasury had to accept its share of responsibility for the serious failure of the service we identified in our report.

Secondly, for most of us on the committee, our recommendation that there should be a new Civil Service Department was not a "destructive" irrelevance spat. It was a constructive proposal for reform. As the report itself makes clear, it was our view that for our radical proposals to reform to be "fully effective, the role of central management needs to be changed and enlarged" (paragraph 247 of the report). And then we set out a number of reasons why we believed a new department should be set up to this end (paragraphs 249 et seq.). Sir Peter Kellner was certainly right in his article on November 13 to say that, for many of us on the committee, the new Civil Service Department was to be "the battering ram of change".

Undoubtedly, the Civil Service Department has been a grievous disappointment to those of us who had such high hopes for its success. For this the reasons are more complex than Peter Kellner indicated. And it may well be that the new Management and Personnel Office working alongside the Cabinet Office could achieve what we had hoped for from the Civil Service Department. Not only is it well placed so close to the Prime Minister, but under the wings of Sir Robert Armstrong and Sir Derek Rayner it could be a powerful spearhead to achieve the Civil Service reform so crucial to any government's success.

Yours faithfully,
CROWTHER-HUNT,
House of Lords,
November 16.

Wartime espionage

From Mr Nigel West
Sir, Mr Ormond Uren, formerly of SOE, gave (November 10) a rather incomplete account of his wartime espionage on behalf of the British Government. He certainly conflicts with the statement made by him which was presented in evidence at his court martial in 1943.

In it Uren confirmed that on six occasions during 1943 he gave secret information to another Russian spy, Douglas Springhall. A severe meeting had been arranged for the evening of June 17, 1943, but Springhall failed to appear. He had in fact been arrested the same morning.

The information Uren gave to the Russians was described by several senior SOE officers at his court martial as "highly secret". They included several secret policy decisions concerning SOE and the Balkans and internal SOE matters. Uren had access to this material because he was fluent in Russian and had been serving in SOE's Balkan section.

Mr Uren did not attend Cambridge University, as implied by my reference to his having been "Cambridge educated" (his SOE colleagues mentioned only a Cambridge language school) but his recruiter, Douglas Springhall, was the principle link between covert CPGB members at the university and the NKVD.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL WEST,
352a Fulham Road, SW10,
November 16.

Taken in vain

From the Editors of Theology
Sir, Those who use the term "theology" in a pejorative sense are not, we suggest, implying that (as certain religious traditions maintain) you should not speak of God at all, they are implying that it is a waste of time to concern ourselves with the religious dimension to which it claims to refer. Any language that we may use to refer to that dimension is dismissed as meaningless and irrelevant.

That is the assumption that underlies the use of the term, even though the user isn't discussing theology. Thus, when Mr Haig (*The Times*, November 7) accuses Lord Carrington of sitting on the sidelines and doing theology he simply means that Lord Carrington is being unrealistic, and that he himself has (in his own words, more or less) "good" and achievable and pragmatically desirable" answers on the matter at issue.

The term "theology" is to be applied to any language which doesn't deal with the concrete practicalities of politics, like increasing your Gross National product, or having a nuclear weapon, or your opponent, or taking the worst view of his motives.

If these are the limits of vision of our politicians, where are they likely to lead us?
Yours faithfully,
JOHN DRURY,
DAVID E. JENKINS,
JAMES MARK,
Holy Trinity Church,
Marylebone Road, N.W.1,
November 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strategic arms reduction talks

From Mrs Elizabeth Young
Sir, In recent weeks there has been discussion in your correspondence columns and elsewhere, of the desirability of so improving Nato conventional capabilities in Europe that battlefield nuclear weapons might be done away with and perhaps, along with them, the whole long-range "theatre" weapon modernization plan.

The purpose would be to make it less likely that nuclear war would develop out of conventional war in Europe: perhaps, it is suggested, it could all be arranged without recourse to actual negotiations with the Soviet Government, ie, unilaterally.

A number of points arise: 1. What are in effect public negotiations about "theatre" nuclear weapons have been going on with the Soviet Union at least since 1977 — the time of Helmut Schmidt's Alastair Buchan Lecture — with proposals and plans and counter-proposals issuing from both sides. The problem itself that these negotiations address has been there at least since the fifties and concerns the strategic significance of Western Europe within the Atlantic Alliance: the abortive multilateral force proposals, the French withdrawal from Nato were about it.

Just what is at stake now and what the limits should be to East-West negotiations are still not properly agreed within the countries of the Atlantic Alliance. When Soviet-American talks start later this month, they will be about land-based intermediate and medium-range missiles; about American and other Allied forward-based systems (FBS) that can reach the Soviet Union; about Soviet FBS that can reach Europe; about Soviet FBS that can reach the United States and Canada?

Who is Mr Haig representing — Nato; the United States? Are there any unilateral actions that can promote clarification or agreement?

There is no easy way to distinguish the other side's conventional weapons from his unconventional weapons; aircraft are dual capable, indeed multi-capable, able to carry high explosive, nuclear, chemical, indeed biological, or other weapons. This is true also of "battlefield" launchers and is true of cruise missiles including those the Soviet Union already deploys. And of course of submarines.

3. The Soviet Union has at last begun to mention the terms on which it would be prepared to recognize a nuclear free zone as such. It is not clear, however, (September 2, 1981) any agreement on nuclear free zones "should really ensure the conversion of the territories of participating states into a zone free from nuclear weapons and leave no loopholes for a violation of the nuclear-free status of such zones... The Soviet Union considers it necessary to establish effective control over the observance by states of commitments they assumed..."

So even unilateral nuclear disarmament would need negotiations with the Soviet Union if it is to grant recognition of "nuclear free status" and undertake to refrain from attacking it with nuclear weapons.

Given 2 above, it is hard to see that a "nuclear-free zone" with no "loopholes" could continue to be an area of conventional defence at the same time: it is only by looking inside a shell, say, that its contents can be determined and effective control established. With the Soviet Union engaged in this kind of monitoring, what independent defence would remain plausible?

Which surely confirms yet again that disarmament and arms control cannot, in practice, be divided up into neat self-contained "limited measures". Reductions cannot but be general and comprehensive — and multilateral.

Both of the super-Powers are at last discovering unarguable limitations to arms racing within their own economies and societies, so it is not impossible that next year's promised strategic arms reduction talks should see the beginning of the necessary disarmament process.

Each side is now suffering from especially high inflation in arms procurement costs (in the West it is some 7 per cent above ordinary inflation); from doubts about the possibility of controlling weapon systems of humbly inconceivable complexity; and above all from a severe shortage of qualified manpower.

Not even the "military industrial complex" nor proponents of the Soviet Peace Programme ("the continuing increase in the economic and military might of the Soviet Union") can prevail against these rapidly advancing brick walls: 1982 looks better for disarmament than any year for a very long time.

Yours, etc,
ELIZABETH YOUNG,
100 Bayswater Road, W2.

From Mr Carroll Dorgan

Sir, A nuclear shot-across-the-bow may or may not be a sensible strategy. But the idea could not be greeted here with such shock and surprise. Henry Kissinger discusses the point in his *White House Years* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1979). He recalls the opinion expressed by the British government in 1969 that "actual nuclear weapons would be needed by Nato to stop a Soviet conventional attack."

On the other hand, Nato would want to minimize the destruction caused by these weapons, so one idea was to use them first as a warning. "What Britain, supported by West Germany, was urging came to be called the 'demonstrative use of nuclear weapons'" (p. 219). The British Minister of Defence pressing this case was Mr Denis Healey.

Sincerely yours,
CARROLL DORGAN,
43 Teignmouth Road, NW2.

Accord on Canada's Constitution

From Mr Denzil Davies, MP for Penryn (Labour), and others

Sir, Following many months of discussion, the majority of the provinces of Canada have reached an agreement with the Federal Prime Minister, Mr Trudeau, on the question of the patriation of what is called the "Canadian Constitution" with an amending formula and charter of rights.

We cannot but be pleased at this welcome development, which will considerably facilitate the task of the British Parliament when it comes to decide upon the request.

However, a number of things continue to concern us on this matter. The British Parliament, whether it likes it or not, has a duty to the Canadian peoples. Within the Commonwealth the Crown has an interest in the preservation of peaceful development and evolution of sovereign member states.

As a result of the November 5 agreement, signed in Ottawa between Prime Minister Trudeau and nine provincial premiers, two issues remain outstanding. Both of these are of some consequence.

The first concerns the province of Quebec, one of the founding nations of Canada. The Quebec Premier, Mr René Lévesque, was unable to sign the agreement for three reasons: 1. Because section 3 of the provincially agreed amending formula (of April 15) which concerns fiscal compensation was dropped from the agreement with the Federal Government.

2. Because of mobility rights. 3. Because of provisions guaranteeing minority language education rights. The second concerns the aboriginal peoples of Canada — the Indian and Inuit populations. These native peoples of Canada have their own pressing claims with the Crown in this country, which is another matter. But, on the insistence of one of the provinces, part of the original package which recognized certain rights for the native peoples has been dropped. Although a future

constitutional conference will discuss such issues, the exclusion of this clause, we feel, considerably weakens the position of the Indian and Inuit nations in particular.

In the interest of Canada above all, and of the Commonwealth, we ardently hope that these issues can be resolved before the British Parliament is asked to decide upon the request. We believe that Britain will be neglecting her responsibilities to the Canadian peoples, which she retains under the British North America Acts and the Statute of Westminster, if such a request is accepted before an agreement has been reached. The nature of Canadian federalism and the unique multi-lingual and multi-cultural characteristics of the community must be recognized for a long lasting peaceful solution to be realized.

The consequences of ignoring the unique contributions of Quebec and the native peoples within Canada will be social and political instability, as well as a return to some of the terrible days of the Laporte crisis in 1970.

We recognize that, according to the principles established by the Supreme Court of Canada, the Canadian Parliament finalizes its request, we hope that Quebec will obtain satisfaction with its demands and the native peoples gain recognition. The great river which divided eight provinces from the federal government has been narrowed to a small stream. It cannot be difficult to cross it now.

Yours, etc,
DENZIL DAVIES,
MICHAEL MARTIN,
DAVID MARSHALL,
GEORGE FOULKES,
GWYNETH DUNWOODY,
GORDON OAKES,
House of Commons.

English at Cambridge

From Dr J. B. Beer

Sir, Earlier this year considerable publicity was given to a case in which an assistant lecturer in this Faculty was not appointed to a full lectureship. Various allegations of bad faith were in two recent letters to *The Times* (October 6 and October 17).

In view of this it is proper to report that I was recently informed by the university that the committee which it had appointed to look into the case had now reported. As a result the General Board of the Faculty had concluded that there was no evidence which could lead them to

say that there were any procedural irregularities in the conduct of the meetings of the Faculty of English, or that the appointments committee, or any individual member of it, had acted in 'bad faith' in reaching the decision in question.

A motion welcoming these findings was carried nem con at the annual meeting of the Faculty on November 12.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BEER,
Chairman,
University of Cambridge,
Faculty Board of English,
3 West Road,
Cambridge,
November 13.

Compensation for nationalization

From Mr Anthony Lester, QC
Sir, Whatever the wisdom of selling North Sea oil assets to private investors, their re-nationalization without compensation by a future Labour Government would clearly violate Article 1 of Protocol No 1 to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Mr Benn's ideas on this subject have already been put into practice. His Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act 1977 provided only derisory compensation for shareholders in some of the companies whose assets were nationalized. Several cases are pending before the European Commission of Human Rights claiming prompt and adequate compensation under the Convention.

I know of no other western country in which a democratic socialist party has committed itself to take property without compensation. Indeed, the last Labour Government (of which Mr Benn was, of course, a member) formally reaffirmed to the Council of Europe, on February 7, 1979, that general principles of international law require the payment of prompt, adequate and effective compensation in respect of the expropriation of foreign property. This was also reaffirmed by the West German and French Governments.

Upon this subject as upon so many others the new-style British Labour Party is uniquely authoritarian and insular among the Socialist parties of Western Europe. Mr Benn has warned those who invest in North Sea oil that their assets will be confiscated.

He and his colleagues should in turn be warned that they would be acting in violation of the European Convention and the general principles of international law. Perhaps a future Labour Government would disregard a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights awarding massive compensation to the dispossessioned. If so the United Kingdom would risk censure from the Council of Europe, a consequence from which even the present anti-European Labour Party might flinch.

As for Mrs Thatcher's Government, they are in the ungainly posture of defending on the international plane a measure which they have characterized to Parliament as being "grossly unfair". Were they to succeed in defending Mr Benn's 1977 Act at Strasbourg, there would be no effective constitutional or legal remedies against future acts of confiscation.

The conduct of Conservative Government and Labour Opposition on this issue illustrates the urgent need for legally enforceable safeguards against the misuse of public power in this country.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER,
2 Hare Court,
Temple, E.C.4,
November 16.

England in Rome

From Mr Michael Wood

Sir, May I add a footnote to Peter Nichols's account of the English College in Rome ("England's oldest corner in Rome", November 11)? Your readers may have gained the impression that the English connection began in 1361, but in fact an English "school" had existed in Rome for over 500 years before the 13th century. Like other groups of foreign residents, the Anglo-Saxons of the 8th century had their own quarter, their own *schola* (unit of the city's militia) and their own church. The English church was St Mary in Saxia, now Santo Spirito in Sassia — a name which still preserves a link with the days of England's closest relations with Rome.

By the 9th century the English school had acquired a local habitation as well as a name, a large building among the ruins and gardens of Nero's circus on Vatican hill. This whole area was known to Romans as the *English vicus*, and 9th century papal archives show the English residents "called the building in their tongue the 'burh'", a name which still survives in the Borgo, a main street in front of the church and hospital of Santo Spirito.

Doubtless this was the house where for over 400 years English pilgrims stayed when in Rome, among them Offa and Alfred the Great. The school came to an end in 1204 when Innocent III founded Santo Spirito on the site.

Of the non-ecclesiastical English residents who serviced this thriving community we are less well informed, but as early as the 8th century St Boniface warned English travellers and pilgrims against their fellow countrymen who lived in Italy in order to practise the oldest profession!

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WOOD,
RBC,
New Broadcasting House,
Oxford Road,
Manchester,
November 12.

Sussex incident

From Mr Martin D. Amor

Sir, Your leader (November 12) on the deployment of ballistic missiles against a statesman omitted to ask whether foreign agencies helped to finance this attack. At six shillings per pound, surely no United Kingdom student grant could have paid for these terrible weapons to be based on our soil.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN AMOR,
41 Magnaville Road,
Bishop's Stortford,
Hertfordshire,
November 12.

The presidential election result in Bangladesh is probably the best available. Mr Abdus Sattar campaigned for law and order and continuation of the economic and social programme started by President Zia. That programme was showing results when President Zia was assassinated last May. Nothing would have been gained by a change of course now.

In 1977 in Pakistan the late Mr Bhutto rigged an election that he would have won anyway. Mr Sattar may now have romped home with a majority somewhat inflated by underhand techniques, which are often employed by zealous local officials who feel it their duty, whether instructed or not, to give the government a little help. Like Mr Bhutto, he would almost certainly have won without the help. But if the Awami League, his main opponents, continue to demonstrate against rigging they are not likely to enjoy the same success as Mr Bhutto's opponents did, since there is not the same tide of political and religious protest flowing as there was then.

All the same, serious divisions persist in Bangladesh among the political classes

THERE WAS NO NEED TO RIG IT

disputing for power over the country's apathetic and uncomprehending peasant millions. Most dangerous is the division in the highly politicized army. This came about when the country experienced the trauma of its bloody birth ten years ago. There were those who fought — as regular soldiers or guerrillas — in the battle for what had been East Pakistan. There were others, among them many Bengali senior officers, who were in West Pakistan and who were disarmed and detained there for two years before returning to Bangladesh to resume their command posts. The rivalry between these military groups was a factor in Shaikh Mujib's assassination, in President Zia's and in the sentencing and execution last September of twelve officers accused of last May's assassination. Mr Abdus Sattar enjoys the military support previously enjoyed by President Zia — he would not be in office without it. Can he exercise his past experience as a judge to reconcile this divided army?

There is not much health to be found, either, in the main civil opposition represented by the Awami League. In the excitement of independence

Shaikh Mujib stood forth as father of the new nation and found no rival to his claim. He was able to build for his party a countrywide organization. But corruption and political gangsterism soon began to lower the party's reputation in a country riven by distrust and violence. As yet the Awami League has not been reborn. Hopes were raised by the return from exile in India of Hasina Wajed, Mujib's daughter. Her personality drew large crowds at election meetings. Yet the Awami League could not conceal divisions as great as those that now trouble the Labour Party in Britain. There were even clashes between rival wings at election rallies.

By contrast, the Bangladesh National Party, created by President Zia, started out with a wide social spread and won many respected recruits. But corruption and opportunism had begun to tarnish its reputation, too. In President Zia's last year in office Mr Abdus Sattar, at 75, has not much time to eliminate such defects and to go ahead with President Zia's policies — which is what the electorate voted for.

SELF HELP UNDER THE LAW

Mr Whitehead's response to the findings of the Home Office Study on racial attacks is unlikely to restore the faith of the ethnic communities in the police and willingness — of the police to react to offences of a racial character. The Home Secretary has accepted the study's unequivocal findings that the incidence of racial attacks, especially on Asians, presented a significant problem and, moreover, that such offences appeared to be on the increase. His programme for action, however, is inadequate and disappointing. Not that there is anything objectionable in his aims: fuller monitoring of racial attacks, training the police to a better understanding of the effects of such offences on minority groups, and closer liaison between the police and the ethnic communities. All that, however, will hardly deter any gang of white thugs from beating up the next Asian they come across.

It was right nevertheless for Mr Whitehead to resist the setting up of special racial attacks squads within the police. Such a move would offend against the principle of equality of treatment for all, it would seem unfair to, and could provoke reaction from, the white community, and it would appear to create two kinds of police — those who would respond to racially

motivated crimes, and those who would not have the ability to do so.

Inevitably, in the absence of the more positive response for which the ethnic communities had hoped, there will be those who will call for a policy of self-help or the creation of self-defence groups from the community at risk. There is danger in that, not only because people ought not to take the law into their own hands and form vigilante groups which would be uncontrollable, but also because it could entrench the spirit of the ghetto already evident among threatened communities.

There are lessons to be learned from New York's experience though the analogy should not be taken too far. New York has what amounts to an unofficial, voluntary force — the Guardian Angels — all of them young and motivated by public spirit. In distinctive red berets they board the underground trains and make their presence felt in parks and other public areas, effectively inhibiting crime in these places. They are trained in basic fighting techniques, though never armed, and when catching a criminal in the act, use their citizens' power of arrest. Their effect is mainly preventive, and the result has been that the level of crime in those

areas "policed" by Guardian Angels has fallen significantly. The police, at first highly suspicious, have now come around to accepting them as a valuable aid.

There are two very important, indeed vital, differences between that form of community policing and the kind of self-help groups that are being envisaged in some of England's racially sensitive neighbourhoods. The first is that the Guardian Angels are deliberately drawn from all racial groups. The second is that they do not act in defence of a particular group, but on behalf of the community generally. Their objective is to protect all citizens at risk from criminal attack, not just some of them.

A way needs to be found to allow the harassed communities to protect themselves, without creating the risk of exacerbating racial tensions. Such a programme of self-help must be discussed and co-ordinated with the police, even if the police themselves do not form part of the initial self-defence mechanism created. Nevertheless the police must not be allowed to opt out of their primary role and any vigilante groups set up must not only be multi-racial but should be seen not as a substitute to the police but as complementary to them.

THE ARTS

Television

Confusion in China

The *Rickshaw Boys* (ATV) was a delicate and somewhat confusing affair in which Peter Yung, a pupil of the late James Wong Howe, took the 1948 film of rickshaw boys on the streets of pre-revolutionary Peking back to the city to see if he could identify and talk to any of them. He found one.

It was delicate because he clearly had no intention of asking the questions, half the people he talked to were barely articulate, even in Chinese, and those that were had nothing very surprising to say. It was confusing because Howe had originally shot his footage for use in the Hollywood version of a classic novel of the Thirties, *The Rickshaw Boys* by Lao She, which was never made.

The book is now being filmed by a Chinese director and has been given a happy ending. Apparently Lao She had always intended to write a positive sequel to the original tale of poverty, ambition and suffering, but had unfortunately perished "during the upheavals of the Cultural Revolution". Silence. I realize you do not visit China or anywhere in the Far East to come back with anything so vulgar as a closed mind or a conclusion, but Mr Yung's programme, though nearly an hour long, seemed to me both elusive and slim.

How did they feel, Gavin Millar asked Michael Powell and Emmerich Pressburger at the end of *Arena* (BBC), about the belated honours being heaped upon them towards the end of their lives? "When did the British ever appreciate their great men?" replied Powell, just managing a grin. Pressburger was appalled: "I hope this will be cut", he said gravely.

It was not, of course, and rightly because it summarized perfectly the revelation of this programme that one secret of a unique partnership has been a reversal of ethnic types: it is the man of Kent who is slightly mad ("daddy" was Powell's own word for himself) and the refugee from Budapest who kept both feet on the ground. The result was not only an affectionate celebration of their work, but critical and perceptive, too.

Michael Ratcliffe

Cinema

When history crumbles to dust



Crossing the Vaal River, from a 1900 news film of the Boer War; and (right) how it could all too easily end



dry leaves under our feet. Some nitrate prints have lasted in fine condition for 80 years. Others, in less favourable conditions, have been known to deteriorate in a matter of months. The process of deterioration can be sudden and rapid. First the emulsion becomes sticky and the images begin to flow and fade away, then the whole reel of the film congeals into one mass, finally drying up and disintegrating into powder. The process produces

noxious gas which in itself hastens the destruction. The whole matter takes on an explosive combustibility. In the past few years there has been a series of disastrous archive fires (none, happily, in Britain, where precautions are rigorous), often started merely by the effects of an unusually warm day.

The archivists' greatest horror is to receive films for the collection, only to find the deterioration has already progressed beyond saving.

The National Film Archive is still haunted by the memory of the only known film of the construction of the Panama Canal in 1913, whose destruction they witnessed in this way. Such fatal casualties are not confined to ancient films: another nagging loss was one of the earliest records of Long Distance Radar, made little more than thirty years ago.

The only solution to the problem is to copy the old nitrate film on to the safer

and apparently more permanent acetate film stock (as yet no video-tape system has a proven permanence). The process is costly and demands specialist technicians, who are hard to find and train. The race against time and decay is Herculean.

Five years ago the National Film Archive established and was given official finance for a 24-year scheme to copy all its nitrate holdings. The year 2000 was chosen as the goal because Kodak stated that this was the date beyond which the last nitrate film they had produced would no longer remain stable. At that time the Archive reckoned that 120 million feet needed to be copied, and that a target of five million feet a year would do the job. At the five-year mark, however, the holdings of film under threat have increased to 170 million feet; and inflation has severely cut down the annual copying potential. Last year there were funds only to copy 3.5 million feet out of the original target of five million.

The archive has raised money from private sources to augment its official subsidies, but without more public funds to offset both inflation and the growth of the collections, it could be faced with the intolerable decision of which part of this heritage of history to jettison. How do you choose between the living, walking images of Tolstoy and Sarah Bernhardt? Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II? The Test matches of the Twenties and the Battle of Alamein? Lenin and Churchill? Lloyd George and Trotsky (whom the archive has as an actor, from a time when he was having to make out a living in any way he could)? The Ealing comedies and James Bond and Mata Hari?

Such agonizing decisions could become all too real. The nature of the nightmare can best be imagined by comparing the dilemma of the British Library or the National Gallery if they were obliged to select which section of their treasures they would see destroyed in order to save the rest, or trying to decide whether St Paul's or Westminster Abbey should be the theatre for demolition. The threat to the national collection of film records is, in terms of our culture and historical obligation to posterity, one of the gravest posed by the current financial crisis.

David Robinson

Opera



Heaven-matched: Horne (left), Caballé

Scrupulous stagings

The first month of the San Francisco Opera's autumn season demonstrated, in two wonderfully successful stagings, the remarkable range of styles that a contemporary opera house repertoire can still viably contain. The city's new productions of Rossini's 1823 *Semiramide* and of Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mzensk* (the original, 1934 version) two works from opposite extremes of the music-drama world, were both scrupulous and diamond-sharp.

Having done very well by Shostakovich's "cleaned up" 1963 version of his opera, generally known as *Katerina Ismailova*, the San Francisco Opera decided this time to go full out with the more robust and more powerful score as conducted with insight and fervour by Calvin Simmons, "on loan" from the Oakland Symphony across the bay.

Whatever reservations I may have about the work, I found the new San Francisco production memorable in every respect. Anja Silja (whose Russian seems totally fluent) was a very convincing passion-driven hysteric, wrestling, commanding, fornicating and murdering with an appalling vigour, mastering the tortuous vocal line (all "impossible" passages returned in a voice that, if never beautiful, is never weak. William Lewis's Sergei gave off enough of a musky, handsome-peasant sexual odour to convince one that this tormented bitch would indeed murder three people for him, however shallow and faithless he may be. Lewis's tenor was clear and strong, his accent tolerable. Chester Ludgin — who sang the

boorish and tyrannical old father-in-law here 17 years ago — mastered the role again, stomping about like a deranged old Tolstoy, denouncing and dying with gusto.

Rossini's *Semiramide*, by contrast, is as unrealistic a drama as drama knows; a superbly abundant feast of flawless belcanto cantos by two heaven-matched mistresses of the medium. Montserrat Caballé and Marilyn Horne, who repeated their summer 1980 triumphs at Aix as the loose-living Queens of Assyria and her confused lover (and son!) General Arsace.

Not since Callas in the Fifties have I heard such a pure feast of voluptuous vocalization. Whether catching all of Arsace's fierce, semi-ferocious syllables, edging out two finely matched threads of pianissimo sound, or filling the house with the Queen's astonishing raptures, the two brought back, for six performances, the finest flower of Rossini's operatic style. I have never heard either woman in finer voice.

"Cabaletta platforms," like short music-hall runways, allowed the singers to step out over the orchestra for their showier bits. The scene was, frankly, ecstatic. It demanded — and act bows (which the divas graciously conceded), and clapped long and thunderously in rhythm at the final curtain.

There was a solid, perfectly acceptable trio of mere males: Eric Halfvarson as the doom-threatening high priest, James Morris as the villainous Assur (who goes mad in an overlong Act II solo); and Dalmacio Gonzales as the tenor Prince who handled his solo commendably. The conductor, Richard Bonynge, seems to think of Rossini as a more frivolous and bouncy composer than I do.

David Littlejohn

Concerts

Boston SO/Ozawa

Festival Hall/Radio 3

What time of year is the "Pastoral" Symphony about? It is not entirely an idle question: I have heard performances that bounded with spring-rising sap, others that luxuriated in a heat-baze of summer, but none before Monday night's account by Seiji Ozawa and the Boston Symphony that caught so well the combination of goldenness and chill peculiar to late October. Here in Mr Ozawa's smooth, steady phrases were the long shadows of an autumn afternoon; here in the precise patterning of the woodwind the clarity and variety of the vivid colour, in the perfectly gauged string chords a sense of abiding calm.

But the "Pastoral" is always, not ecology, and this always fascinating performance never let one wander too far along the lanes of poetic analogy. Instead Mr Ozawa's subject was the very substance of the music, and he rolled it like master, though from above rather than from within. In the first and third movements, for instance, he showed how a theme could be introduced quite simply and straightforwardly as if the music was starting in the middle of some unimportant transition, but then could be nurtured and encouraged into musical life. At other times, though, his horticultural care was more directed. The balletic exuberance he induced at the beginning of the second movement took us at once some way from Beethoven's brook, and the Trio of the peasants' merrymaking was so martial as to make me expect the sudden entrance of the trumpet from *Leonora* No 3.

Nevertheless, a conductor so alert to rhythm and texture, and an orchestra so crisp and forward in focus, were obviously going to do marvellous things in the evening's other and very different pastoral, *The Rite of Spring*, as indeed they did. Even the first note was a wonder, brought out almost from silence and packing into its minuscule crescendo a sharp flow of tension. Then, as the bassoonist was joined by all his colleagues in the Prelude's forest of wind instruments, the distinctiveness of each line remained intact, and the whole jostling crowd were heard as never before in my experience.

The enormous orchestra joined together with no less remarkable. With no fears for the stability of its ensemble, and clearly none for the virtuosity of even the most exposed players, Mr Ozawa could concentrate on moulding the giant

chords of the final dance in a way to make them both barbaric and subtle, this was no uniform stomp, but a sacrifice impelled by sounds of shattering beauty, by crashes and by desperate shrieks. The bulk of the orchestra was strong enough to accommodate the fiercest cracks from the trombones, sensitive enough to let us hear every note. All that was missing was the bass drum, which, alone of those on stage, had not earned its transatlantic ticket.

Paul Griffiths

Virgil Thomson

Purcell Room

Happy birthday, Virgil Thomson! America's sharp-tongued music critic and sharp-eared composer will be 85 in a week's time, so John Kozar, American pianist, planned, and nervously hosted, a little party for him on Monday to which a few local friends of both gentlemen turned out. Unfortunately, Trinity College of Music were less loyal: they mysteriously backed out at the last minute, so we had less of Thomson and more of Kozar than expected.

We had been promised an extract or two from Thomson's operas: the nearest thing to that was a musical *Portrait of Carrie Sternheimer* who wrote for her a piece called *Tréma*, demonic with multiple stoppings, a rasping motto perpetuo of pent-up passions and animal spirits. She played it after a performance of Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata in which at times her energy and intensity just over-topped the balance; phrase-shaping suffered and the lyrical classical heart of the music was almost stifled by playing which dangerously approached a caricature of the Romantic style.

The Classical Orchestra, founded and conducted by Alan Hacker as an extension to The Music Party and formed to perform music

included Picasso, Arp and a hidden-time guessing-game. Together they provided a tantalizing glimpse into Thomson's own faux-naïve delight in game-playing, the little self-conscious reflections of Satie's ironic smile, the gleeful flaunting of his Paris Scrapbook.

A duet, transcribed and neatly played by Kozar and Michael Chapman from Thomson's music for the 1945 film *Tuesday in November* showed us the plain-speaking Yankee recalling his Baptist days in Kansas City — and all the more engaging for that. Candles were also lit for Mozart (225 this year, but I hope he was not listening), Bartok (100, and he would have enjoyed at least the energy of Mr Kozar's performance of his Op 14 Suite and Bulgarian Dances) — and Edmund Rubbra. His eighth birthday was celebrated by the late Eight Preludes Op 231, Mr Kozar moving among their tough and tender sculpture with a good deal of the assurance, imagination and wisdom they deserve and own.

Hilary Finch

Gabrieli Quartet

St John's/Radio 3

As reminder that the chamber works of Benjamin Britten are the linking thread in the BBC's current series of Monday midday concerts, the Gabrieli String Quartet ended their recital this week with his first string quartet in D,

written exactly 40 years ago when he was 28.

Though in fact his last wartime offering from the New World, only the slow movement betrays any trace of the home-sickness so often to bring him back to Suffolk. For the rest, it is music of near Stravinskian acerbity, fearless in exploitation of sharp dynamic contrast and extremes of tessitura.

Few quartet openings are crueller than the first movement's stratospheric chords. The Gabrieli team had some difficulty early on in sustaining them quietly and evenly enough; once or twice intonation was questionable too. But robust sections gave them courage: on their final return these chords were luminously ethereal. The Scherzo was excellent, the dry bite of the opening as tautly rhythmic as the triplet snarls of the scherzo, the ending diabolical. If the *Angantio* calmo (sometimes likened to the *Moonlight Interlude* in *Peter Grimes*) at first threatened to lag behind the prescribed metronome marking, it found its rightful flow with the arrival of the glowing main theme, particularly moving from the viola. The finale had the requisite sparkle and pungent drive.

As opener, the Gabrieli chose still younger music, Mendelssohn's E flat major Quartet, Op 12, dating from his twentieth year, when his vision of fairyland was still at its freshest — as the Canonetta makes very clear. This group played it with delectable lightness.

Joan Chissell

Nonchalance and whimsy

Rivka Golani-Erdess is a performer of spontaneous and fiery physicality, whose command of technique, even at this comparatively early stage of her career, is assimilated to a remarkable degree into the sharply individual character of her musicianship. This was thoroughly understood by Heinz Holliger, who wrote for her a piece called *Tréma*, demonic with multiple stoppings, a rasping motto perpetuo of pent-up passions and animal spirits. She played it after a performance of Schubert's Arpeggione Sonata in which at times her energy and intensity just over-topped the balance; phrase-shaping suffered and the lyrical classical heart of the music was almost stifled by playing which dangerously approached a caricature of the Romantic style.

The Classical Orchestra, founded and conducted by Alan Hacker as an extension to The Music Party and formed to perform music

from early Haydn to Schumann, less in at the deep end with Beethoven's ninth symphony, restoring some rarely heard bars in the second movement in the process. What the performance lacked, through the very nature of its forces, in galvanizing, sustaining power and sheer beauty of sound, it made up in convincing energy, tempi perfectly scaled to forces, phrasing vital and spontaneous. And never before have I heard the choral and vocal parts (the Yorkshire Bach Choir with Yvonne Seymour, Catherine Denley, Nigel Rogers and Stephen Varcoe) in such happy and convincing balance. This and many other details of musical revelation fully justified the performance, though earlier Haydn's Trumpet Concerto (Michael Laird) undermined the musical compromises that too often have to be made in worship at the shrine of authenticity.

Hilary Finch

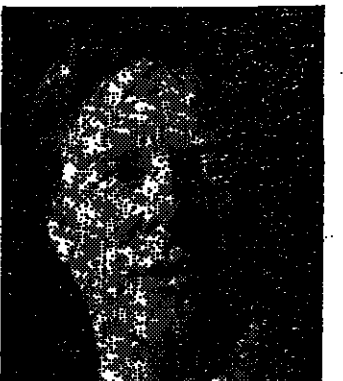
Subscription schemes

Orchestral integrity in the market place

In October 1735 Charles Avison, composer, conductor, writer and organist, set up a series of subscription concerts in his native Newcastle. The occasion is remembered with pride by the Northern Sinfonia of England who, in taking up the idea again in the mid-1960s, set the pace for many other regional orchestras. They now offer all their concerts on a subscription basis, as do the two major orchestras of the north-west, the Hallé and the BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra.

The early investment, regular commitment and strong local loyalty that a subscription series of planned concert-going provides has been invaluable to the north; and the healthy infusion of lesser-known and contemporary music which the assurance of advance money and a captive audience that the BBC Symphony Orchestra has been suffering for its courageous and lively determination to promote contemporary music. The remarkable success of the Symphony Orchestra Club, started by the BBC's Public Concert Promotions Officer, Patricia King-Smith, just over a year ago, demonstrated a loyalty from radio listeners and concertgoers which both augurs well for the success and reinforced an already strong case for a subscription series.

Without the necessary financial backing to woo audiences with advertising and artists as glamorous as the Philharmonia's, one of the most striking characteristics of this new scheme is its very simplicity. There are just two series, one in the autumn, and one (opening this month) for the spring, and they are booked separately. Club members (15 per cent of whom so far have taken advantage of the scheme) are offered 40 per cent discount, and general subscribers 25 per cent. The BBC do not intend to alter programme emphasis in any way and still expect small audiences. But the system costs them no



In the footsteps of Danny Newman: Peter Hemmings of the LSO (left), Christopher Bishop of the Philharmonia

concert Brahms series, saving up to 18 per cent.

The season's programmes were planned far in advance of the subscription series, so its effect on the music provided has yet to be felt. While recently a far larger audience than might otherwise have attended a programme of Ligeti, Mendelssohn and a rare Haydn work Christopher Bishop admits that they are still being cautious. By syphoning off contemporary music into a series in the smaller venues of St John's and the Round House, the Philharmonia show that they are still not willing to risk any threats to the life of their new baby.

The grounds for this fear are borne out in the average 39 per cent Festival Hall audience that the BBC Symphony Orchestra has been suffering for its courageous and lively determination to promote contemporary music. The remarkable success of the Symphony Orchestra Club, started by the BBC's Public Concert Promotions Officer, Patricia King-Smith, just over a year ago, demonstrated a loyalty from radio listeners and concertgoers which both augurs well for the success and reinforced an already strong case for a subscription series.

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In the footsteps of Danny Newman: Peter Hemmings of the LSO (left), Christopher Bishop of the Philharmonia

extra money in terms of staff and advertising and they consider with pride the firm heart of up to 200 proven music lovers before the doors open encouragement enough to keep the system going.

London's third major subscription series has just been announced. Peter Hemmings, managing director of the London Symphony Orchestra, has carried on the tradition he pioneered with the help of Danny Newman in Scottish Opera in the Seventies by devising with him a scheme to set the orchestra on its feet in its new Barbican home.

The largest such scheme ever attempted in Britain, it differs from the other two in several ways. Each of 15 series (offering discounts of up to 35 per cent) is planned for a particular night of the week, with 6.30 pm concerts on Mondays and Tuesdays to suit a specific public, the 350,000 or so city workers whom the LSO see as sufficiently creatures of habit to lap up the system offered them. While the Philharmonia are as yet unable to repeat other than the most popular programmes, thus spreading and saving valuable rehearsal time, the LSO's scheme will enable them consistently to repeat a programme with four or five rehearsals before it starts.

Extra rehearsal, and the fact that they will be underwritten by the City of London Corporation, the Arts Council and the GLC and administered by the Barbican, will, they hope, free them to investigate in greater depth certain areas of music, especially that by twentieth-century composers, with Henza Tippett and Boulez as future composers-in-residence.

Apart from the obvious financial gains of early investment and solid core houses, subscription schemes have undeniable psychological effects on orchestras and audiences. For the orchestra, a full house gives a sense of occasion and of stability that

cannot fail to encourage better playing, and single ticket sales tend to rise the harder a concert appears to set into. Consistently, the audience feedback to the Philharmonia has shown that concertgoers like it easy; they prefer to fill in a form than queue or telephone, and they like the reassurance of the same seat choice of music decided for them. Indeed, Christopher Bishop of the Philharmonia says: "We're not terribly interested in people who come on the night. Spontaneity is a luxury: we want commitment to the orchestra." Commitment, it seems, from the sort of regular concert-going public who know not to clap after the third movement of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique*.

There is much at stake: the spontaneity of the going, the availability of tickets for overseas visitors, the possibility, as schemes proliferate and become more competitive, of an erosion of profitability, with a similar effect to that of trading stamps in the retail business. While it is too early to evaluate either the commercial or cultural value of subscription series, one thing is certain. These schemes place an even heavier burden of educational responsibility on orchestras themselves in creating and fulfilling the expectations of their potential audiences. The artistic integrity of each one is now up for trial in a way it has never been before.

Hilary Finch

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§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Business News

THE TIMES Wednesday November 18 1981

60 YEARS OF
EXPERIENCE
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£3,000m bonus for Howe's next Budget

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The Government could have a £3,000m bonus in its coffers in time for the Budget next year, allowing the Chancellor either to hold down interest rates or to cut taxes.

Calculations made by the Treasury in its negotiations with spending departments paint a gloomy picture of government finances next year. But two bonuses—the effect of the Civil Service dispute and the proposed sale of North Sea assets—have been left out of the calculations. These could allow the Treasury to accept a higher level of public spending next year than it has been willing to do in its discussions so far.

The Civil Service dispute, at its peak, cost the Government over £6,000m in lost revenue. Treasury estimates suggest that up to £1,000m of revenue will still not have been collected by the end of the financial year and will come in to the Government's hands in 1982-83. The most internal guess is that about £750m will be outstanding at the end of this year, though the figure could be higher.

Treasury officials argue that this does nothing to allow the Chancellor to reduce borrowing from next year to this, so that the actual amount the Government borrows this year is likely to be about £1,500m, even though the underlying figure is still thought to be £10,500m. The £1,000m gap will be made up next year.

Although the Treasury will stick doggedly to this line, it is likely that other ministers will use the reduction in the forecast for the actual level of borrowing which results from this slippage to press their case for a more relaxed fiscal policy.

Their views are likely to be reinforced by the prospect of sales of assets, especially in the North Sea, could provide the Government with up to £2,000m next year.

Treasury officials are working on how the funds from these sales should be treated. They have so far provisionally decided that, as long as the Government gives up control of the body being hived off, the sale counts as a reduction of the total level of public borrowing. It would be entered into the books as a form of negative public spending, reducing both the spending and the borrowing totals.

If the Government holds on to control, on the other hand, then the sales are treated as being a way of funding the

Problems expected over oil sell-off

Government plans to dispose of most exploration and production interests of the British National Oil Corporation together with the offshore and onshore oil assets of British Gas are likely to raise £1,400m (Peter Hill writes).

A report published today warned that the Government will face many problems over its planned disposal of these oil production interests since a valuation of all the oil assets will have to be made before disposal. On the Government's own legislative timetable, any valuation could be complicated by possible changes in the North Sea tax regime in the next Budget.

According to Phillips & Drew, the sale of 51 per cent BNO's stake is likely to raise £900m while the oil assets of British Gas—which include a 50 per cent interest in the rich onshore field of Wytch Farm, Dorset—will be valued at a further £500m.

BNO has interests in more than 60 North Sea oil blocks, six producing oil fields and two other fields under development and interests in other significant discoveries.

This year, BNO's production accounts for about 7 per cent of total North Sea output and pre-tax profits are estimated to rise from £515m this year to £933m in 1984.

De Lorean loses top executive

By Baron Phillips

Mr Eugene Caffero, president and chief executive of the De Lorean Motor Company of Belfast, has resigned, saying that he wanted time to pursue other ventures.

The resignation takes effect from December 15, although Mr Caffero said in New York last night that he would remain a director and a consultant to the company.

Mr Caffero joined De Lorean nearly three years ago with the brief of getting the car company off the ground. He was formerly president of Chrysler.

He said that when he joined the company it was never intended to be a long-term project.

"Over the past two years or so I have spent 50 per cent of my time away from home visiting the company on its feet. Now the company is up and running and viable. I want time to devote to other things including my family," he said.

De Lorean said from Belfast: "He feels his main role has been fulfilled which was to see the company through the launching period. He now feels he has done his bit and is looking for a bit more relaxation."

Over the past few months De Lorean's affairs have been under public scrutiny after allegations of mispending government funds. Mr John De Lorean, the chairman, denied the allegations and issued libel

writs against seven defendants after being cleared by a police inquiry of any criminal conduct. The company's 750,000sq ft factory in the suburb of Dunmurry employs 2,500 and production is on target at 80 cars a day. So far almost 5,600 cars have been shipped to the United States and a further 131 await shipment.

Public reaction to the £27,000 (£24,000) stainless steel car has been warm and company officials report that there is a buyer for every vehicle produced so far.

Caffero: wanting time to pursue other ventures.



Tesco opens new Surrey store to do battle with Sainsbury

Mr Leslie Porter, chairman of Tesco, Britain's second biggest grocery chain after the Co-op, yesterday opened a new store at Sutton in Surrey. This strengthens the group's representation in the south of England where Sainsbury is strongest. He also reported on the 24 weeks to mid-

August in which Tesco raised pre-tax profits by nearly 6 per cent to £14.6m. By contrast, Sainsbury recently reported a 38 per cent jump to £42.5m in pre-tax profits for the 28 weeks to mid-September. Tesco has been retrenching in non-foods to get profits moving again, and in two years it

has increased the share of own label lines in its 225 stores from a trade average of 20 per cent to about 30 per cent of sales. Tesco is planning to get ahead of rivals in installing laser-scanning electronic cash desks. The first will start in January.

Financial Editor, page 17

Rank in £14.5m expansion

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Tozer, Kemsley & Millbourn, the overseas trader, has agreed to sell its holiday division to the Rank Organisation for £14.5m in cash. The deal, which is subject to contract and approval from TKM's shareholders at an extraordinary meeting, will greatly increase Rank's involvement in the international holiday business where it has been seeking to expand for some time.

Rank already owns Budlin's, which is the largest holiday company in Europe, and in 1979 it bought Leisure Caravan Parks for £19.9m. TKM's holiday division includes Owners Services, which provides charter flights for villa owners abroad, and its subsidiary Wings, which is an upmarket tour operator.

Mr Russell Evans, group managing director of Rank, said: "This latest investment will widen the business horizons of our hotels and holidays division, provide it with significantly increased income all year round and is expected to produce a satisfactory return on capital."

TKM's holiday division made pre-tax profits of £2.6m in the year to October 31, up from £1.8m the previous year, and has net assets of £1.5m.

TKM, which has recently been subject of much takeover speculation and reported a drop in half-year profits from £4.5m to £5.5m and cut its dividend earlier this month, said that Rank had offered a fair price and the money would be used for developments elsewhere in the group.

Japan puts off plan to cut exports

From Peter Hazelhurst

Tokyo, Nov 17

Japan's Cabinet has decided to veto all main points of an economic plan designed to reduce its huge trading surplus with the United States and other industrialized nations.

The plan, which was presented to the Cabinet today by Mr Toshio Komoto, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, was drawn up in recent weeks after Japan was warned that her trade surplus with western partners could rise to \$26,000m this year.

Senior Japanese leaders have decided to veto the plan because Mr Zenko Suzuki, the Prime Minister, is expected to reshuffle his Cabinet next month. "It is only fair that a plan of this nature should be approved by a new Cabinet which will have to implement it," a senior official said tonight.

The Cabinet also decided to ease some of Japan's non-tariff barriers, such as the country's complicated import inspection procedures.

Mr Komoto reiterated the promise that the Cabinet would urge industry to curb specific exports to specific areas.

The diplomats believe Mr Komoto was referring to exports such as cars, television sets and machine tools.

In another sop to the European Community, the Japanese Government has agreed to plan for joint cooperation in the fields of nuclear fusion, space, aerodynamics and other areas.

Japan is considering taking France and Italy to the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) over its restrictions on imports of Japanese cars.

Engineering output rise forecast for short term

By Rupert Morris

Output in mechanical engineering will rise by 3 per cent next year, according to a joint working party report on short-term trends published by the Engineering Employers' Federation.

But the federation, which is hoping soon to seal a 5.06 per cent national engineering pay deal, sees only a short-lived recovery and remains profoundly gloomy about the longer term.

Figures for the first half of 1981 show that orders were higher than expected but these are said to be distorted by large one-off orders for power station and oil production equipment.

The 3 per cent growth forecast for 1982, with continuing slight improvement in the first half of 1983 will still leave output well below the 1979 level. Output in 1981 is expected to have been about 16 per cent down on 1979.

Even a modest recovery depends on a revival of investment by United Kingdom manufacturing industry as it struggles to stay competitive, the report concedes, and this is by no means certain and could be jeopardized by continuing high interest rates.

A fall in employment in the mechanical engineering industry from 827,000 in December, 1979 to 742,000 in June, 1981, was halted in July when there was an increase of 2,000 jobs.

But the report concludes: "The 1980-81 recession has been deeper than just a cyclical downturn. It is likely that the longer-term trend for the United Kingdom mechanical engineering industry may still be downward."

From Douglas Aitton, Melbourne, Nov 17

Australian finance decontrol plea

The Campbell report's recommendation to deregulate the Australian financial system was consistent with the Government's basic objectives, Mr John Howard, the Treasurer, told the Canberra Parliament today.

In its findings published yesterday, the committee urged that all official intervention of bank deposits and leading interest rates should cease and all other government controls should be abolished.

Mr Howard told MPs that while he could not comment on specific recommendations, their possible implementation would continue the process of measured, and prudent, deregulation which has taken place in recent years. But he noted some of the proposals raised in social and political sensitivity. It is likely the Government will set up a task force to study the report.

Commissioned in 1979 and headed by Mr Keith Campbell, an economist and businessman, the committee is the first set up to examine finance in Australia for 45 years. Mr Campbell told a press conference today that he expected the proposals to be largely accepted by the Government, although he thought there would be some modifications.

The recommendation on interest rates comes during a year in which the rate on home loans has been increased three times. The Campbell report urges that free market forces be allowed to determine all interest rates.

Immediate deregulation of interest charges would not only free the banks to charge market rates for housing loans, but would also allow them to pay any competitive rates they liked on deposits.

Housing mortgages through banks are controlled by the Government. They were raised by 1 per cent to 12.5 per cent last April.

Other recommendations are that:

- Banks should be able to pay interest on current accounts if they wish;
- Exchange controls should be progressively dismantled;
- The exchange rate for the Australian dollar should be set by market forces instead of the public service committee;
- The embargo on foreign banks setting up in Australia should be removed at once, but the rate of entry of new foreign banks should be carefully managed, though those with licences should be allowed to operate without restriction.

The report also recommends the abolition of the law by which life assurance companies can get tax concessions only if they invest a proportion of their assets in government securities.

Financial shake-up, page 17

Hidden costs hamper industry

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

British industry's competitiveness with foreign rivals has been seriously undermined by hidden employment costs which have risen twice as quickly as pay over the past 12 years, it was claimed yesterday.

The Confederation of British Industry said that since 1968, pay for each hour worked had risen by 400 per cent—more than 13 times faster than the growth in productivity, which

had risen by only 30 per cent. But, according to Mr Peter Lobban, CBI deputy director of social affairs, so called hidden labour costs—including pensions, insurance, redundancy provisions, company cars and luncheon vouchers—had shot up by more than 900 per cent over the same period.

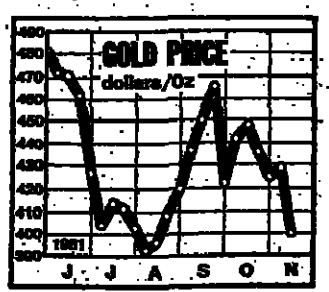
In 1968 the hidden costs of employment accounted for 16 per cent of total labour costs, but last year they accounted for 27 per cent and, according to Mr Lobban, writing in the latest issue of CBI News, the trends have accelerated since 1975 with disastrous effects on international cost competitiveness.

Employers are being urged to take a tough line against moves to reduce working hours and against further concessions on holidays.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Loan rate firmer

Short-term interest rates were generally a shade firmer yesterday following Monday's signal from the Bank of England that it wants to slow the decline in



US link for Babcock

Britain's Babcock Power Co. is hoping that a link with American companies will lead to a flow of orders for fluidized-bed combustion boilers able to burn high sulphur coal for industrial use, says a spokesman. Babcock is a subsidiary of Conoco Inc., with Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation, has successfully tested a new process for high sulphur coal burning.

New team at British Gas

British Gas whose monopoly buying rights are under threat, has appointed a three-man team of managers to buy natural gas. Under Mr James Allcock, director of the petroleum purchasing department, will be Mr Geoffrey Moore, managing policy and co-ordination, and Mr Kenneth Williams and Mr James Lister, both managers in petroleum purchasing.

Tax postponed

The taxing of company cars and petrol by direct deduction under Pay As You Earn, due to come into effect in April 1982, has been postponed for one year to allow employers more time to make the necessary arrangements.

Unilever profits

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household goods combine, increased third quarter pre-tax profits by 19 per cent to £179m. Nine months' pre-tax profits were up 24 per cent at £543m. The British half of the company has declared an interim dividend of 9.9p compared with 8.9p last year.

Financial Editor, Page 17

Stock Markets

FT Index 508.3 up 4.6
FT 100 63.6 down 0.34
FT All Share 302.48 up 0.69
Bargains 17,511

Sterling

\$ 1.8935 down 200 pts
Index 90.2 down 1.1
New York \$1.8932

Dollar

Index 107.3 up 0.4
DM 2.2555 up 17.5 pts

Gold

\$ 399.50 down \$5
New York \$404

Money

3 mth sterling 141-144
3 mth Euro \$ 121-124
6 mth Euro \$ 134-135

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Dunlop Holdings	66	+4
Caterpillar	323	+15
City Offices	130	+20
Comstar	66	+3
Debenhams	75	+3
Geers Cross	110	+8
Glaxo Holdings	440	+8
ICI	48	+3
Kwik Fit Holdings	65	+3
Manson Finance	65	+3
Ottoman	547	+23
Rand Milne Prop	280	+10
Ranger Oil	430	+10
Toner Kennedy	79	+10
Websters Group	41	+2

Falls

BP Canada	£123	-£1
Bracken Mines	105	-17
Durham Road	29	-21
Kaynes	592	-19
Ledley	113	-9
Marvale Con	126	-16
Mincro	42	-16
Reed A	66	-5
SA Land	187	-21
Stone Platt	10	-1
Tesco	84	-1
Viatron	110	-14
Western Areas	192	-16
W Rand Cons	81	-28



Louho deal

Louho, the international trading company, has agreed to pay \$100m (£52m) to buy the 50 per cent stake in Princess Properties International group from Universe Tankships Inc, that it does not already own. Princess is the holding company for a chain of luxury resort hotels.

Shares suspended

The shares of Polymark International, the supplier of machinery to laundries and garment manufacturers, were suspended on the stock market yesterday at \$84p. The company said it requested the suspension after the discovery of financial discrepancies at Adolf Dreher, its German associate company.

TODAY

Mr David Steele addresses United States Chamber of Commerce in London. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, to attend launch of glass manufacturer's recycling scheme. Confederation of British Industry council monthly meeting. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, to speak at Machine Tool Trades Association dinner. MFA negotiations resumes in Geneva. Preliminary estimates of gross domestic product, based on output data (3rd quarter); indices of average earnings (September); indices of basic wages rates (October).

Enterprise in store

The chairman of Marks & Spencer and J. Sainsbury, two of the country's best-known high street chains, set aside their natural competitiveness to allow one to congratulate the other on his success.

The occasion was the presentation by Lord Siffert, the M & S chairman, to Sir John Sainsbury (on left of picture) of this year's Business Enterprise Award, organized by the Institute of Directors.

The award, which was introduced last year, is made to the company judged to have made the most significant contribution to wealth and job creation over the past year. Sainsbury's took the award on the strength of an improvement in profits of 42 per cent and the creation of more than 5,000 new jobs.

Business Diary, page 17

Warning on pipeline

The Reagan Administration is being urged to soften its position on the proposed Soviet gas pipeline to Europe following the release, yesterday, of a new report indicating that an American policy hostile to the pipeline would only "damage American companies."

The report, by the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, warns that the United States can do nothing to prevent the project without total support from its European allies.

It concludes, therefore, that United States companies ought to be allowed to participate, since the Russians will have ready access to the technology they need from Japanese and European companies.

Savoy puts blame for loss on THF bid

By Simon Proctor

The Savoy group of hotels yesterday announced a sharp increase in loss for the first six months of this year, which it blamed partly on the publicity about the Trusthouse Forte bid for control earlier this year.

In the half year to June the Savoy's chairman, Sir Hugh the Connaught, Clarendon and the Berkeley hotels in London, suffered a pre-tax loss of £1.3m against a loss of £837,000 in the initial six months of 1980 and a deficit for the whole of last year of £1.6m.

Of THF's £67m bid, the Savoy's chairman, Sir Hugh Wootton, said: "It has to be borne in mind that, for three out of the first six months, determined efforts were being made by another hotel organization, Trusthouse Forte, to decry in particular the Savoy, while at the same time making every effort to acquire it, together with the rest of the company's very celebrated and successful undertakings. Continuous publicity on this account was not very helpful."

Mr Donald Durban, THF's administrative director and company secretary, said: "The figures bear out every word we said at the time of the bid."

At the height of the bid battle Sir Charles Forte, executive chairman of THF, described the Savoy management as a disgrace, while Sir Hugh said Sir Charles knew nothing about running first class hotels.

Meanwhile, it was also disclosed yesterday that Mr Willy Bauer, the executive director and general manager of THF's Grosvenor House hotel in London's Park Lane, would be taking over from Mr Claudio Buttafava on January 4 as general manager of the Savoy.

Despite the heavy loss in the first half Sir Hugh emphasized that all the company's hotels were trading at a profit, including the Savoy. "It appears likely that the results of the second half of the year will be in marked contrast to those of the first six months of 1981," he added.

The non-voting "A" shares of the Savoy were unchanged yesterday at 182p. THF controls about 65 per cent of the equity of the Savoy, including around 40 per cent of the "B" shares which carry votes. Sir Hugh and his colleagues command the votes of over 45 per cent of the "B" stock.

LONDON & PROVINCIAL SHOP CENTRES

Joint Chairmen
R. Gerard and B. S. Barwick

Results for year ended 24th June, 1981

- Profits £654,000 (1980 £488,000) — an increase of 34%.
- Investment properties professionally revalued at £77.8m — an increase of 14%.
- Net assets 577p per share — an increase of 20%.
- Office developments of 78,000 sq. ft. in Slough commencing 1981/82.
- Current annual rental income £3.1m (1980 £2.8m).
- Rental income will increase progressively to £4.4m from rent reviews by 1986, based on current rental values.
- Gross dividend of 3.43p per share — an increase of 20%.

	1981	1980
Rental income	£700	£700
Profit before tax	2,957	2,241
Gross assets	654	488
Net assets	79,100	70,755
Net assets per 10p share	62,360	51,891
Gross dividend for the year	577p	480p
	343p	285p

Report and accounts available from The Secretary, London & Provincial Shop Centres (Holdings) Ltd., 24, South Street, London W1Y 5PJ

IN BRIEF

Chinese smokers pay more

Prices of cigarettes and alcohol in China are to rise sharply from today, but some synthetic textiles will be cheaper, according to the New China News Agency in Peking.

Cheapest cigarettes will be 0.02 yuan (5p) dearer, and best quality 0.27 yuan (7p) dearer at 26p a packet. The Chinese heavy smokers, but good quality cigarettes, have been scarce recently, and the rises have been approved to boost the makers' declining profits.

Top brand alcoholic drinks are two yuan (55p) dearer. A litre of beer has gone up 0.16 yuan (4p).

Synthetic textiles, particularly polyester, have dropped 0.66 yuan (20p) a metre.

China's inflation was said officially to have reached nearly 6 per cent last year, but Western experts believe a truer figure would be 20 per cent.

Grant for Bangladesh

Bangladesh has become the first Asian country to receive a grant — \$1.43m (£752,500) — from the Opec fund for international development to cover its contribution to the common fund for commodities. Earlier recipients of similar grants have all been African countries.

Oil depression

The Japanese oil refining industry is in its worst depression with refineries operating at record low levels. The Petroleum Association of Japan said refineries were working at only 56.3 per cent of capacity of 5.94 million barrels a day from the beginning of April to the end of September.

Nigeria contract

In a contract worth £38m from the Nigerian government, generator, manufacturer, Petbow of Sandwich, Kent, is to be project manager of a scheme, involving James Scott of Darlington and Deutz Engines of London to bring electricity to a rural area of Nigeria.

Sweden slims deficit

Sweden's trade deficit narrowed to kr400m (£38.8m) in October from September's kr700m, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Exports and imports both showed record figures.

Loans guarantee

International bank loans worth \$96m to help finance hospital, agriculture and water developments in Nigeria are being backed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department.

Israeli inflation

The inflation rate in Israel, expected to be 130 per cent this year, could rise to 180 per cent next year, Treasury officials in Jerusalem have forecast.

Italy shoe exports

Italy's shoe industry exports have soared this year, improving sales abroad by 5 per cent in real terms, after a slump of 20 per cent last year.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank	15 %
Barclays	15 %
BCCI	15 %
Consolidated Crds.	15 %
C. Hoare & Co.	15 %
Lloyds Bank	15 %
Midland Bank	15 %
Nat Westminster	15 %
TSB	15 %
Williams and Glyn's	15 %

* 2 day deposit on sums of £10,000 or more. ** 12 month deposit on sums of £10,000 or more.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF SCOTLAND: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF IRELAND: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF NORTHERN IRELAND: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF WALES: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF CALLED: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF LONDON: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF AUSTRIA: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF SWITZERLAND: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF GERMANY: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF FRANCE: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF ITALY: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF SPAIN: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF PORTUGAL: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF GREECE: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF TURKEY: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF JAPAN: 10.25 %

THE BANK OF CHINA: 10.25 %

Allied-Lyons buys tea and coffee side of Coca-Cola

By Margaret Pagano

Allied-Lyons, one of the country's big six brewers, has clinched a £21m deal in the United States to buy the instant coffee and iced tea interests of Coca-Cola.

The purchase is being made through J. Lyons, the group's food division, to buy Coca-Cola's Tenco subsidiary, which manufactures private-label instant coffee, iced tea mix and tea in the United States and runs a sales and packaging operation in the United Kingdom. Tenco also owns a South American soft-drink business but this was not up for sale nor was Lyons interested in buying.

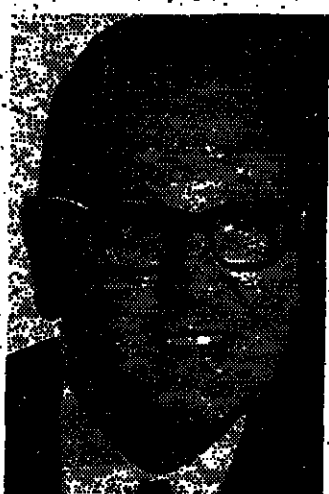
Lyons is acquiring the two business which have a total turnover of \$150m (£79.4m) and employ together some 700 people. Close trading links have been established for over 20 years and Lyons has long sought to buy the business which supplies its own American coffee and tea market. The deal should be completed in December and will partly be paid in dollars.

Mr Leonard Radham, Lyons managing director, said last night the deal would provide many benefits to its existing business in the US, particularly for Tenco, its tea and coffee company. Tenco used to supply 35 per cent of the ingredients for Tenco's iced tea mix sales, a very strong market in America selling 6,000 tons of mix per annum. It will also provide Tenco with the technology for decaffeinated coffee products and for private brand coffee.

The US operation, based in New Jersey, employs 570 staff. Lyons's three US businesses, Tenco, Baskin-Robbins, the 2,500 chain of ice cream stores, and its mix and batter division, together provide half of profits in the division and last year increased profits by 20 per cent.

The United Kingdom concern, based in south-east London is smaller with 130 staff. Lyons said the deal was made over a year ago and packages private label brands for High Street retailers as well as a significant trade for vending machine customers and bulk-coffee for caterers.

Mr Radham added that Lyons expects good returns on the investment made.



Mr Leonard Radham, managing director of J. Lyons.

LCP buys rest of Whitlock in US

By Our Financial Staff

LCP Holdings, the Midlands group with interests from property to special steels, has moved further into the United States market to take up full control of the Whitlock retail chain of car part stores.

LCP is paying \$17.7m (£9.4m) to increase its stake in Whitlock from 40 per cent to 59.13 per cent. Whitlock operates 48 stores across the Mid-West states selling mainly to DIY customers and last year made \$24m before tax.

Cash payments will be spread over the next year.

Mr David Rhead, LCP chairman, says the deal marks significant growth potential and forecasts a strong advance in profits this year.

The deal was announced yesterday after half-year results for the six months to September which revealed a fall in group pretax profits to £1.4m against £2m last time. Sales

declined £2m to £104.8m. Shareholders receive an unchanged half-time gross dividend of 2.57p.

Investment property, consisting of five trading estates in the West Midlands, is still the most important component of the business with profits rising £1.4m to £1.5m. But all other interests, apart from vehicle distribution, showed a decline, with trading profits down from £3.5m to £2.8m. Last year pretax profits were £3.6m.

Property development lost £7,000 against profits of £307,000, construction slipped from £305,000 to £205,000, and the special metals division ran into trouble with losses of £12,000 against profits of £63,000. This is due to poor performance by H. R. Turner, whereas all other companies in the metals division were profitable.

HAT lifts profits by 11.6 pc

HAT Group, the specialist services and materials group based in the West Country, remains on line at the half-year stage to meet a self-imposed target of a 20 per cent annual increase in net profits at the pretax level.

For the six months to August 31, the group reported pretax profits of £2.4m, up 11.6 per cent on the corresponding period of 1980. Sales were 6.3 per cent higher at £24m.

Trading profit was £2.4m, against £2.15m a year earlier. After taxation of £901,000, against £814,000 a year earlier, and minorities, and less interest on loan capital, attributable profit was £1.5m, against £1.3m for the corresponding period. Last year earnings per share were 3.02p, against 2.72p.

The group is lifting its half-time dividend to 1.964p gross from 1.785p, an increase of 10 per cent. The figures were in line with expectations and the share price was unchanged at 66½p, following their announcement. The yield is 5.9 per cent.

Mr David Telling, the chief executive, said yesterday that he was actively looking for an acquisition. In August, the group made a £7.50m rights issue. Mr Telling said cash balances were currently about double that.

He said he wanted a private company that would not make any of the group's divisions top-heavy. Market speculation has been that HAT's cleaning or maintenance divisions were most likely to be augmented by the proposed acquisition.

Mr Telling ruled out using the money raised by the rights issue for its newly-formed property development division.

Lower Readicut loss in first six months

By Drew Johnston

Improved turnover and an increase in overseas sales are the signs of improved profitability at the textile group. The textile group has cut its pretax losses back from £1.6m in the six months to September 30 to £95,000.

Trading profits for the group, however, were £988,000, turned around from a loss of £745,000 last year to a profit of £293,000.

Mr Paul Croset, chairman, said yesterday he was less concerned about the group's high level of interest charges than with continued demand.

"The improvement in our performance this year has been largely a result of our cost-cutting exercise," he said. Readicut has seen its workforce fall from 5,000 in 1979 to its present level of 3,500.

One exception to low UK demand has been at the Frith Furnishing subsidiary which supplies car carpets.

Mr Croset said increased demand from car manufacturers had contributed to a very satisfactory performance.

Greycoat bids £36m for City Offices

By Peter Wainwright

A well-heralded bid for City Offices emerged yesterday but was quickly rejected. The bidder is Greycoat Estates which is offering more than £36m, though its own market value is £19m. City Offices' shares jumped 20p to 130p, but around a fortnight ago they jumped from 82p to 106p on what some identified as heavy buying. Already there are rumours of a Stock Exchange inquiry.

Greycoat has an ambitious development programme, which two big schemes just finished. One is 150,000 sq ft of office at Euston Road, London, funded by Legal & General, and the other is 600,000 sq ft of offices at commercial space at Curriers Gardens, London, EC2. Greycoat is also involved in the massive Coin Street development in London's South East.

Mr Michael Pragg, of brokers Simon Coates who told an investment conference that grey were looking cheap. He reckoned that investors had collectively misjudged the current market and added that if United States interest rates went significantly lower next year the scope for improvement in long-term bond would be dramatic.

If Greycoat fails, it could lose £1.1m in expenses, or 10p a share. The group's auditors, Arthur Young, McClelland Moore, qualified the last accounts. No provision for the expenditure had been made.

Greycoat is rich in cash but is thought in the stock market to be short on assets. Against that, the value of its assets, its book value is £5.7m.

The bid is of four Greycoat shares for every five in City Offices. Alternatively, holders of every five shares in City Offices are offered three shares in Greycoat and 157p in cash. After the bid was announced, Greycoat shares fell 8p to 170p, while those in City Offices jumped 20p to 130p. The offer is worth around £36p.

City Offices is rich in prime assets. It is largely orientated towards the City of London where more than 65 per cent of its rental income arises. Key shareholders are Legal & General Assurance with 29 per cent of the shares, and Bank International with 17 per cent. City estimates suggest that assets could be 155p a share plus, and opinion is that a bidder could well have to pay 155p a share plus, and opinion is that a bidder could well have to pay up to 155p a share plus.

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Stock markets

Shares manage some gains

Equities shrugged off their fears about the economy and the Bank of England's warning against lower interest rates, to register fresh gains yesterday.

Nevertheless, the market opened in a cautious frame of mind, still awaiting the outcome of allotments for dealings in Exco, which start today. Dealers still expect the shares to open with around a 60p premium over the offer price of 140p, although much will depend on market conditions.

Sentiment continued to improve throughout the morning as investors eagerly awaited third-quarter figures from Unilever. Unfortunately, these proved to be below expectations and the price of the shares fell 50p to 220p. The latest figures from Tesco were also below expectations and the price finished 5p lower at 54p.

Much of the latest improvement in share prices caught many observers by surprise, but was enough to leave the FT index 4.6 higher at 508.3 after opening 1.5 up at 506.8.

The sharp about-turn in the value of sterling caused a certain amount of worry, with profit-taking gaining the upper hand in this trading. This was in spite of the views of Mr Michael Pragg of brokers Simon Coates who told an investment conference that grey were looking cheap.

Elsewhere in the market, the had collectively misjudged the current market and added that if United States interest rates went significantly lower next year the scope for improvement in long-term bond would be dramatic.

Unilever shares were up 10p to 220p, while those in City Offices jumped 20p to 130p. The offer is worth around £36p.

City Offices is rich in prime assets. It is largely orientated towards the City of London where more than 65 per cent of its rental income arises. Key shareholders are Legal & General Assurance with 29 per cent of the shares, and Bank International with 17 per cent. City estimates suggest that assets could be 155p a share plus, and opinion is that a bidder could well have to pay 155p a share plus, and opinion is that a bidder could well have to pay up to 155p a share plus.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Safeguarding control over UK banks

At issue in the proposed legislation to control foreign takeovers of United Kingdom banks is the extent to which overseas control of an important part of the British banking system would inhibit the authorities in their supervision of the economy. Both the Bank of England and the Treasury take the view that a big bank (like Lloyds, for instance) holds a vital, strategic place in the economy and cannot be entrusted even to benign foreign control or influence. Hence the unprecedented passions aroused in the Bank since Hongkong and Shanghai floated its 1972 guidelines in April this year by launching a bid for Royal Bank of Scotland despite the displeasure of the Governor.

The Foreign Office and the Department of Trade, on the contrary, would seem to view legislation as inhibiting the operation of a free market (subject of suitable controls) as well as inviting retaliation from overseas, particularly the United States where British banks have made sizable acquisitions over recent years. In this they are joined by senior bankers who would be most unhappy to see any legislation which inhibited further expansion overseas despite the apparent lack of suitable candidates at reasonable prices. It is not only the Hongkong Bank which worries the Bank of England. As soon as exchange controls were abolished in October 1979, United Kingdom bankers were complaining that foreign banks were breaking the guidelines on foreign currency lending.

It is this fear that foreigners may not always be willing to obey the rules of the game which has determined the Bank and the Treasury on the need for protective legislation. This may not prove to be the wisest course for a government which has firmly set its face against protectionism and towards the free market mechanism. A search for ways to tighten up guidelines to ensure that overseas control of an important United Kingdom financial institution and domestic control over the running of the economy remain compatible, may be a better way of going about this.

After last year's £4.98m loss *Acrow* now seems to have seen the worst of things. At the half way stage, the pretax loss has been cut to £1.94m against £2.69m for the corresponding period last year. Sales were up 9.4 per cent at £76.42 and there was a trading profit of £658,000 against £159,000 a year earlier. Orders accepted on tight margins last year in order to keep factories working are now coming to an end and lower interest rates are helping reduce the effects of borrowings that required £2.6m in interest payments in the first half.

More importantly, the group has been exporting well. Overseas sales were up by 22.5 per cent and accounted for two thirds of total turnover, against three fifths in the first half last year. On the other hand, domestic sales are down on last year's levels and are likely to be so again in the second half. The group says its order books are at record levels, although, again, it is the export-oriented divisions that are showing the strength. It is hoping to return to profitability in the second half, but £1.94m seems too great a leeway to make up. However, when Norman Cunningham, a man with a reputation for turning round troubled companies, arrives next month as the new chief executive, he will find that task already underway.

Unilever Good gains outside Europe

Unilever's sales have held up well this year and the third quarter figures suggest that earlier estimates of about £680m pretax for the whole year will be vindicated. Combined third quarter pretax profits were £179m, an increase of 19 per cent, giving nine months profits of £543m, up 24 per cent. If one recalculates, using exchange rates prevailing at the end of September rather than the end of last year, the results look even better: total attributable profit has risen by 29 per cent to £330m. Overall volume rose by 1.5 per cent and total sales were up by 13 per cent to £8,487m for the nine months, but with most of the volume (and profit) gains coming outside Europe. Unilever had spent heavily on productivity improvements in Europe itself and, though these may bring profit gains when economies revive, at the

moment they only serve to maintain profitability.

Outside Europe, by contrast, the company is doing well. National Starch, the American acquisition, is paying off, and the launch of Shield soap was successful. Detergent volumes have grown, food products are seeing bigger margins even if volumes are tending to slip, and personal products are also showing the results of higher productivity. Overall, the 6 to 7 per cent group increase in productivity over recent years is being maintained, while the group has also been helped by mainly stagnant commodity prices.

These trends will continue into the final three months. There must be a reservation that as the winter looms and recession bites deeper, particularly in continental Europe, consumer will shy away from some of the more costly products, for example frozen foods. Many of Unilever's products come fairly low down the list of economies made as discretionary income shrinks, however. So falls in real incomes are most likely to take their toll next year. Against that, the fourth quarter will be five calendar days shorter than the third, effectively offsetting the £18m gain in the first quarter from three extra days.

Tesco Signs of improvement

Tesco may have stopped the rot. For three years its profits have been falling, thanks both to a costly over-expansion into non-foods and to a weakening grip on foods themselves, where competitors such as Sainsbury scored on quality while Tesco continued, as before, to pile it high and sell it cheap. But yesterday Tesco reported an increase of nearly 6 per cent to £14.6m in pretax profits for the 24 weeks to mid-August on turnover up 8.6 per cent to £915.7m. Even so, turnover was slightly down in volume terms and Sainsbury — first half profits up 38 per cent — has all but caught up with Tesco in grocery markets share. Each now has just over 13 per cent.

Tesco has, of course, been slowing down in non-foods and doing what it can to repair margins in foods. It has also cut borrowings by making property disposals to lower interest charges. But by stressing quality and fresh food, like Sainsbury, it is playing a game that will take time to pay off. Now Tesco is talking of electronic point of sale equipment (electronic checkouts) but the first installation does not start until January. Meanwhile, the group had to provide £1m against the latest pretax profits. The shares slipped 5p to 54p.

TKM Raising cash

Against a background of sliding profits but a share price which has refused to reflect this because of the ever-recurring takeover rumours, Tozer, Kemsley & Millbourn has been working to solve its internal problems. This year there have already been a couple of small disposals, the joint venture on foods with Imperial Group to stem one loss-maker and more recently the merger of the group's Canadian agricultural equipment maker with a third party to staunch another heavy drain on the group's resources.

Against this background, the £14.5m sale of the holiday division to Rank Organization looks like a measure to raise cash at a time when interest charges have been bearing heavily on the group. The book profit of £13m thrown up by the deal will also help to make the bottom line of the profit and loss account look a good deal healthier than otherwise at the end of a year which is having to bear further extraordinary rationalization costs. In addition, the City will draw comfort from seeing TKM freeing resources to concentrate on its traditional businesses, however successful the travel operations have been. Indeed the shares rose 3p yesterday to 79p, although takeover hopes still seem the main justification for the shares at this level.

Sarah Scott

Mr Campbell shakes up Australia's finances...



Mr Keith Campbell who headed the committee of inquiry into the Australian financial system with his controversial report.

Sydney. The Campbell report, recommending radical changes to Australia's financial system, has plunged the federal government into a political dilemma and prompted outright rejection by the labour party opposition and the Australian Democrats who together control the Senate.

Even before Mr John Howard, the Treasurer, had completed his address to Parliament, heralding the 500,000-word report and its key proposals, a total deregulation of interest rates, the political sparks began to fly.

By the time he had finished Mr Howard, who had been an enthusiastic supporter of deregulation of the market, place, and had set up the committee of inquiry which produced the report, began showing unhealthy signs that he was less than happy with the 88-page programme.

The report's main recommendations are to abolish all controls on interest rates, to dismantle foreign exchange controls, to admit foreign banks to Australia and for the Australian dollar to be fixed to the dollar in the market. It also recommends the ending of double taxation of company dividends, that banks should pay interest on cheque accounts, and tougher provisions against insider trading.

Other proposals are uniform consumer credit laws, the selling out of selected government financial institutions, the ending of preferential financial treatment of farmers, deregulation of brokerage rates charged by stockbrokers, limits to special export finance, the selling of state insurance offices, tougher company reporting standards, and a new deal for building societies and credit unions which virtually en-

ables them to become banks. Mr Keith Campbell, the report's chief architect, spent nearly two years producing this voluminous critique of Australia's financial make-up. His immediate reaction to the criticisms, which were yesterday coming from all sides of the political spectrum, was to urge the government to muster the courage to push through the recommendations in their totality — "or it could do nothing and continue with an inefficient financial system."

Mr Howard dithered by saying that the government would "naturally seek to achieve a balance between economic, social and political considerations and realities". Total deregulation of interest rates would force the

government to use budgetary measures to offset cost rises to the politically sensitive rural lobby and the owners and buyers of homes. Ministers believe that this would put at risk their promise of lower income taxes.

The committee's recommendations have understandably caused an uproar in the National Country Party, which has insisted that any removal of preferential interest rates for farmers should be offset by large subsidies. Mr Peter Nixon, the Minister for Primary Industry, said categorically that no changes would be made unless they met the government's "social and political priorities".

Equally, the Labour Party

and Australian Democrats vehemently rejected the chief recommendations. Mr Ralph Willis, Labour's economics spokesman, said that although his party would support proposals designed to strengthen consumer protection it would oppose any move to deregulate interest rates. "The aspirations of millions of young Australians to own their own homes would be dashed, and small business's would be devastated", he said, as Australian Democrats joined the chorus by saying that interest rate deregulation would be a disaster.

Criticism from these two parties carries clout because their combined forces can veto any legislative changes in parliament.

While the critics have

homed in on the deregulation issue, fearing rising interest rates, one of the most interesting proposals to emerge from the report is the open-door policy for foreign banks.

The report says that licences should be limited, but recommends immediate entry, with no requirements for local equity.

Unfortunately, the report fails to be more specific about the number of licences that should be allocated.

The committee also recommends that foreign banks not wanting licences should be able to establish agencies restricted to an "offshore" lending role, with no authority to borrow on Australian markets or undertake foreign exchange business. Foreign exchange business remains the prerogative of local banks, a recommendation that will thoroughly disappoint the merchant banks who lobbied enthusiastically for this business.

The Australian banks immediately endorsed the wide-ranging recommendations yesterday, although some were pessimistic about their implementation.

Local banks had geared up for foreign bank entry and a subsequent increase in competition by merging their operations. The Melbourne-based Commercial Bank of Australia accepted a marriage proposal from Sydney's Bank of New South Wales and the National Bank joined forces with the Commercial Banking Co of Sydney.

The report also says that exchange controls should eventually be dismantled and that the restriction on the listing of foreign corporations on Australian stock exchanges should be lifted.

...but has he gone too far?

It is clear that no Australian government of whatever political flavour could hope to implement the full range of Campbell recommendations. For what the Campbell committee has done is to tread on the toes of the most powerful interest groups in the land.

It would need a government of extraordinary confidence to take on home owners (Australia has one of the highest rates of home ownership in the world), the powerful farmers' lobby, and the federal treasury (which believes that control of foreign exchange is a critical economic weapon) and expect to survive.

Certainly, the present government would be unwilling to consider suicide merely for economic purity. In this sense the breadth of the committee's findings must have been a shock to Mr Malcolm Fraser's government, which was expecting something more politically palatable.

The government has shown some signs over recent years that it would be prepared to consider changes to Australia's highly regulated financial system, but it wanted changes that would not be a revolution which would upset a finely balanced political apple cart.

The government's prevailing view was that if Australia was to have foreign banks it would be a more harmful and then only in tightly restricted sections of the market. If Australia was to have deregulated lending rates, home loans and farm loans among particular categories of borrowers could be exempt.

A reflection of just how tentative Australian government can be came last November when the cabinet decided to deregulate bank deposit rates, but a submission by Mr Howard, the

Treasurer, to extend this to some lending rates was defeated by an axis of "pragmatic" Liberal ministers and National Country Party ministers.

The Campbell recommendations still have to pass through that same cabinet with that same axis intact. On the face of it there is no urgency for the government to adopt a more flexible financial system, although most economic observers believe that Australia's long-term economic health would benefit greatly.

It would seem therefore that like the 1962 Vernon Report on the Australian economy which the Menzies government rejected out of hand, the Campbell Committee Report will become a theoretical target but little more.

Helen Barker

Why the Russians are so short of food

The Russians are deeply worried about worsening food shortages. This year's grain harvest may have been 60 million tonnes below target, at only 175 million tonnes. On Monday, President Brezhnev gave warning at a meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee that food supply was the central problem for the present five-year plan which began in January. Yesterday the opening session of the Supreme Soviet was told that, despite the many difficulties, the country was sticking to the plan. ALEC NOVE examines the shortcomings of Soviet agriculture.

The food shortages which are an increasing problem for the Soviet Union have certainly not been helped by the weather. It is unusual to have three poor harvests in a row. But the weather is only partly to blame — a range of other factors play their part.

One is the authorities' obstinate persistence in a cheap-food policy. Retail prices of bread, meat and other basic foodstuffs have not been changed for 20 years, though money incomes have roughly doubled in that time.

Since prices paid to farms have gone up sharply, there is a huge subsidy bill at more than £16,000m, the highest agricultural subsidy in history.

At these prices supply and demand are in gross imbalance and in the (legal) free market prices are often two to three times the official level. But equally responsible for the shortages is the sluggish response of agriculture to the large injections of resources which the Soviet state has

used to try to stimulate higher production. Some 27 per cent of total investment goes to agriculture, a far higher figure than in any industrial country.

Why have the results been so disappointing? Labour problems are an ingredient in any explanation. About 27 million people work in agriculture, yet it is still necessary to draft in extra labourers by the million to cope with the peak of the harvest.

A labour economist in the Soviet Union recently estimated that the numbers involved have increased 2.4 times since 1970 and have reached the remarkable figure of 15.6 million, and the numbers have been increasing rapidly.

There are two main reasons for the unwillingness of the peasants to work harder at peak periods and inadequacies and gaps in mechanization. Labour incentives are ineffective because there is little to spend the extra money on and they are also perverse, because pay is unrelated to final results. A tractor-driver is paid in terms of area ploughed and so is actually rewarded if he succeeds in ploughing shallow.

Mechanization is often of mediocre quality, lacking essential spare parts and poorly maintained in ill-equipped workshops. So-called "small-scale mechanization" is notoriously lacking. The farms cannot get the machines they order through the official wholesale intermediary, and as an article in *Pravda* pointed out last month, farms "often have to fetch (dismantled) machines from the factory, assemble

them, test them and then still pay 10 per cent extra to the Goskomselkhoztekhnika (the intermediary). What for? For the non-existent delivery, testing and assembly."

Transport is another big problem. Rural "roads" have become an impassable sea of mud in autumn and spring and lorries are unsuitable for their tasks. Lack of storage space results in the loss of much grain and fertilizer while shortage of packaging materials helps to deprive towns of vegetables and fruit.

All these "lacks" have been the subject of repeated press criticism, as has the practice of excessive and arbitrary interference with farm management. Compulsory delivery quotas are accompanied by many other orders: farms are told, for example, how much to deliver to the state, what area to sow to which crop, when to sow and when to harvest. They are forbidden to dispose of a head of livestock without written permission.

All this naturally disrupts the farm management's own plans and crop rotations and breeds irresponsibility.

Indeed, President Brezhnev made it plain in his speech to the Central Committee that this was an aspect of the problem which worried him deeply. Criticizing the rigidity of the present methods, he said "The basic decision is how to use an acre of land and when to start working must lie with the collective or state farm itself."

Privately cultivated allotments, and privately owned animals have contributed significantly to the country's

food supply. Western critics sometimes note that only 3 per cent of the sown area is privately cultivated, but accounts for 26.5 per cent of total agricultural production.

This, however, is misleading. Two thirds of the value of output consists of livestock products, and the animals are not pastured on the private plots. None the less, the private sector could certainly do more to relieve the present shortages and is most efficient in the use of labour than state and collective farms.

What remedies are proposed or are being attempted?

First, a series of decrees and declarations have come out strongly for expanding private production. Hungarian experience has been studied and new contractual relations are being established between peasant households, the collective or state farms and the food industry to encourage private livestock-raising.

So serious is the food shortage that the ideological prejudices against private enterprise are being set aside. Second, there has been a marked extension of the practice of setting up so-called autonomous work teams, small groups of peasants who organize their own work schedules and are paid by results.

Proposals on these lines were first put forward fifteen years ago, but were put into cold storage. They are now being revived and given publicity.

Third, a decree has (not for the first time) denounced excessive interference with farm management. The sown area, livestock numbers and the organization of production must be its responsibility.

We shall see if this will prove consistent with the injunctions to local party committees, to ensure that various tasks are carried out by management. It is also contradicted by the drive, now in progress, to set up "agro-industrial complexes", which must further enlarge the bureaucratic control apparatus in the countryside.

It has been decided to alter the prices paid to farms. The decree, made this July, is obscure, but the net effect would seem to be a further increase in prices, which would add still more to the subsidy payments out of the state budget.

We shall have to wait and see what effect these measures have, but the observer must have grounds for scepticism. After all, since Stalin's death there have been several decrees and declarations concerning farm autonomy, the encouragement of private production and a better system of labour incentives. However, Mr Brezhnev himself is still expressing extreme concern and the alarm caused by the present food shortages, and the huge scale of grain imports, seems quite genuine.

The author is Professor of Economics at the University of Glasgow.

Business Diary: Salford's militant industrial complex

When the scale of the cuts in university grants became known earlier this year, one of the hardest hit universities responded quickly with an initiative for survival that has yet to be equalled.

The university is at Salford and the action came in the creation of the "Campaign to Promote the University of Salford".

Although the project has become known by its acronym, CAMPUS, there is nothing of the academic ivory tower about it. For a start, the inspiration came from a group of industrial executives with companies including Ferranti, GEC-Marconi Electronics, and Ward and Goldstone, all of which have exploited inventions from applied research and collaborated in the university's advanced training scheme tailored to meet the needs of industry.

So when Dr John Ashworth, the new vice-chancellor, took his seat at the beginning of term, the battle for survival was well under way. Hence his brief from the job of Chief Scientist to the Government "think tank" — the Central Policy Review Staff — was probably not quite as shattering as it could have been. CAMPUS has gathered more than 200 companies to help in achieving its first goal of persuading the Government

that the heaviest cuts had fallen on one of the universities of most value to industry, coming up with the innovations needed to restructure manufacturing and commerce. The campaign is pursuing a second goal, the strengthening of collaboration with industry and commerce, by formally constituting CAMPUS as a trust later this month under the chairmanship of Alan Veale, the managing director of GEC Power Engineering, and with Professor Graham Ashworth of the department of civil engineering as its director.

It will then be set on its longer term course which should send at least a tremor through the mandarins of Whitehall and the academic clique who form the University Grants Committee. For the object is to expose the misconceptions of the proper role of a university in a modern society which are alleged to exist in the Department of Education and Science and the grants committee.

Systime's analysis There were doubtless some satisfied smiles yesterday down at the offices of the National Enterprise Board — shortly to become the British Technology Group — when it was learnt that one of its subsidiaries, Systime, the

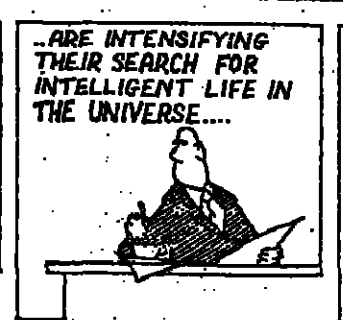


mini-computer maker, was among four companies shortlisted for this year's Business Enterprise Award.

The award (won by Sainsbury's) is judged on the basis of the wealth and job creation performance of companies over the past year. Systime's profits rose by 31 per cent and employment by 26 per cent on the back of rising demand for mini-computers.

The principal sponsor of the award is the Institute of Directors, whose director general, Walter Goldsmith, is among the least enthusiastic supporters of state intervention in general and of the NEB in particular.

Talking Turkey "Banker Kastelli" is a household expression in Turkey as householders struggle to



make both ends meet in an inflation-ridden country. The cost of living index, which soared to 120 per cent last year, is now running close to 40 per cent for 1981, but wage and salary earners still have a hard time trying to catch up, particularly under a military regime which forbids strikes.

Many Turks are selling jewelry and property to raise cash and put it on deposit with "Banker Kastelli" and other private investment firms that are exploiting Turkey's economic mess.

"Banker Kastelli", who has just been authorized to add 11 new provincial offices to a chain of 15, offers 55 per cent interest a year for two years if the interest is paid monthly, or 52 per cent for a one-year deposit.

Kastelli and his colleagues are giving Turkey's 40 banks



tough competition. The banks are bound by an informal cartel arrangement to pay a maximum of 37 per cent interest net and not monthly either.

Timely bandits Time Bandits directed by Monty Python's lone American Terry Gilliam and financed by ex-Beatle George Harrison, made few waves in Britain, but in North America it is shaping up as one of the surprise hits of the year. In two weeks it has already taken nearly £7m at the box office and shows no sign of letting up.

The fantasy adventure film for children and adults, with Ralph Richardson as God, Sean Connery as Agamemnon, John Cleese as his affable Robin Hood, six dwarfs and an unknown 12-year-old boy, cost "either five million or 20

million to make", says Gilliam with a straight face. American critics have raved about it and the *Time* Bandits illustrated sci-fi play is selling like hot cakes at about £5 a copy. Why is it cleaning up? American science fiction writer Harlan Ellison says: "There is such a paucity of imagination in the bulk of films being produced today that when something that is genuinely imaginative and fresh comes along, the audiences streak to it like poor devils who have been dragging themselves across a desert."

Michael Montagu, chairman of the English Tourist Board, was flying out of JFK Airport, New York, the other day and fell to pondering why English airports have such obscure names. He came up with a list of alternatives, among them Churchill International (instead of Heathrow?), Shakespeare International for Birmingham, Drake for Plymouth and Bronte for Bradford. When it came to Manchester and Liverpool imagination failed him. My suggestions are Fosdyke and Maggie May, but then these are as likely to fox the visitor as they are to please the natives.

Ross Davies

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INTERIM REPORT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th JUNE 1981

	6 months to 30th June 1981	6 months to 30th June 1980	Year to 31st December 1980
INCOME:	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	1980
Listed investments	9,212	4,516	9,248
Interest receivable	301	4,445	6,846
	9,513	8,961	16,194
Administration expenses	3,177	2,746	9,541
Profit before taxation	6,336	6,215	6,653
Taxation	2,565	2,486	2,646
Profit after taxation	3,771	3,729	4,007

18th November 1981

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Copies of the full Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Hunt & Moscrop (Middleton) Ltd, PO Box 36, Apex Works, Middleton, Manchester M24 1QS.

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Conversions to keep faith with Britain's heritage



Originally built in 1645 the impressive Cotswold stone mansion Brockhampton Park, near Gloucester, has been restored by Barratt Developments and converted into self contained apartments.

freehold flat in Arnewood Court, Flexford Lane, Sway, Hampshire. This can present certain legal problems especially who pays for any outside structural work, or which tenant is liable if drains or roofs are in need of repair.

living in a large house, they would still like to occupy a grander residence than would be normally possible.

Although spiralling rates and utility charges may have hastened a move to one of these flats in the first place, it is worth bearing in mind that a service charge will be levied.

In most cases an internal management company, made of the tenants, will organize maintenance and the care of common parts but costs will rise as the years go by. A purchaser has to decide whether in the long run these costs will rise beyond their means and whether a small house or bungalow, however less charming, may be more practical.

One developer who has entered this field of refurbishment is Barratt. Normally associated with building low-cost starter homes and more affordable family houses, the Northern-based builder has undertaken a number of conversion schemes through its Barratt Southern Division. This week the division is

celebrating the completion of its 150th conversion from historic and sometimes neglected buildings. Barratt's schemes have included Connaught Mansions in Bath, the Putney Hotel, Brockhampton Park near Gloucester and more recently Laleham Abbey on the Thames, near Staines.

There is a wide range of prices from £16,000 for a small studio to a £225,000 palatial apartment.

Not only the home ownership market is getting the conversion treatment. Rental specialist Jacqueline Ironside has teamed up with interior designer Pierre Fowell to offer owners of large properties practical advice on how best to convert.

"Tenants are deprived of value for money accommodation and landlords miss the opportunity to charge realistic rental rates. Attempts to patch up inevitably lead to further deterioration, doing nothing to enhance the property or its value, Mr Ironside says.

the subject of preserving historic buildings, a public inquiry started yesterday over the proposed plans by a firm of builders called Hestol to build houses in the vegetable garden of The Ivy, in Chippingham, Wiltshire.

Most of the house which exists today was constructed in 1727 although its origins date back to Saxon times. Hestol has been seeking planning permission for some time to build nine houses on the adjacent site.

The house has been empty for almost a decade. Hestol bought the property some time ago for £90,000 and permission to build on the site was conditional on renovation of the house. The company has since sold The Ivy for £85,000 to its present owner who is now refurbishing the house.

The new owner is not happy about the prospect of having nine new houses built at the end of his garden and is fighting the proposed planning permission.

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For an application form and job description please contact Personnel Department, Royal Marsden Hospital, at the above address. Tel: 01-352 8171, Ext. 445. Closing date: 30th November 1981.

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Jackson Stops & Staff

POSTPONEMENT OF AUCTION

THE GRANGE, RECKHAMPTON, WILTSHIRE

As part of the property has been sold by private treaty, the auction sale of The Grange due to have taken place on Thursday 25th November 1981 is now postponed.

The remainder of the property, comprising the principal residence, two cottages, 20 boxes and 213 acres, will be offered for sale by auction in the Spring of 1982, unless sold privately beforehand. For further information please contact the Auctioneers: 14 Curzon Street, London W.1. Tel: 01-499 6291

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

On Thursday 10th December 1981 at 2.30 p.m. at the Court Suite, Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.

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Independent gas fired central heating; advanced security system; 24-hour porterage; lift; impressive entrance foyer; magnificent split level double reception room; study; master bedroom, bathroom & dressing room suite; three further bedrooms & bathrooms; fitted kitchen & breakfast room with utility area; guest cloakroom; two terraces underground parking for two cars; 115 year lease.

Further details apply to joint auctioneers: Keith Cardale Groves Chartered Surveyors 43 North Audley Street, London W1 2AQ 01-629 6604

AR Auctioneers 55 HEATH STREET, HAMPSHIRE TEL: 741151

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